Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS 50th Anniversary Note

To Our Consumers:

This year the Foreign Broadcast Information Service observes its 50th anniversary.

The service, first called the Foreign Broadcast Monitoring Service, was established in 1941 prior to the U.S. entry into World War II. At the time, a number of U.S. Government officials were concerned about the content of foreign radio broadcasts—a relatively new means of conveying information and propaganda across borders. On their advice, President Franklin D. Roosevelt in late February 1941 allotted money from his emergency fund to institute the recording, translating, transcribing, and analyzing of selected foreign broadcasts for the U.S. Government. During World War II the service demonstrated that monitoring was a fast, economical, and reliable way to follow overseas developments.

Today the Foreign Broadcast Information Service provides its consumers throughout the federal government, according to their diverse official interests, with information from a broad range of foreign public media. FBIS information also is available to readers outside of the government, through the National Technical Information Service. Objectivity, accuracy, and timeliness are our production watchwords.

We members of the current staff of FBIS extend our thanks to consumers for their interest in FBIS products. To past staffers we extend our thanks for helping the service reach this anniversary year. At the same time, we pledge our continued commitment to providing a useful information service.

R. W. Manners
Director
Foreign Broadcast Information Service

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FBIS-LAT-91-038 *26 February 1991*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Castro Comments on Gulf Situation at Havana PCC *[Havana Radio]* 1
Castro Speaks at Santiago Party Assembly 17 Feb *[Havana TV]* 2
Raul Castro Attends Central Army Party Congress *[Havana Radio]* 14
Closes Conference *[Havana Radio]* 14
Raul Castro Tours Matanzas Area Military Units *[Havana TV]* 15
Lezcano, Lemus Inaugurate Agricultural Camp *[Havana TV]* 15
Malmierca Visits Tehran for Nonaligned Meeting *[Havana Radio]* 16
Namibian President Invited To Pay Official Visit *[Havana Radio]* 16
Rodriguez Meets Guinean Minister; Signs Agreement *[Havana TV]* 16
PRC Envoy Visits Villa Clara, Bicycle Plant *[Havana Radio]* 16
Roa Kouri on Human Rights Violations in Cyprus *[Havana TV]* 16

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Sandiford on Regional Economic Integration *[CANA]* 16
Comments on Guyana Electorate *[CANA]* 17
Workshop Examines Common Regional Currency *[CANA]* 17

Haiti

Report on President Aristide News Conference *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 18
Vincent Letter to Abraham Addresses Human Rights *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 18
School Officials Dismissed; City Hall Shut Down *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 19
PANPRA Withdraws From ANDP, Plans Assembly *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 19
Correction on Aristide Speech at Inauguration 19

Trinidad and Tobago

Speaker Says Husayn 'Conveniently Using Islam' *[CANA]* 19

MEXICO

Costa Rican President, Ministers on Agreements *[NOTIMEX]* 21
Government Moves To Conserve Environment *[Mexico City TV]* 21
* Salinas Emphasizes Economic Accomplishments *[EL DIA 8 Jan]* 21
* Salinas' Response to Nation's Demands Examined *[LA JORNADA 20, 27 Jan]* 23

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Five U.S. Military Advisers Killed in Accident *[San Salvador Radio]* 26
FMLN Reportedly Willing To Support Elections *[Radio Farabundo Marti]* 26
FMLN's Villalobos on 10 March Elections *[Radio Farabundo Marti]* 26

Honduras

Consul Denies Registering, Flagging Iraqi Ships *[TIEMPO 23 Feb]* 28

Nicaragua

FSLN Leader Tefel on Party's Reorganization *[Managua Radio]* 29
Sandinist Leader Borge Criticizes Government *[Managua Radio]* 29

Panama

Endara on Safe-Conduct to Rodolfo Chiari, Others *[Panama City TV]* 30
MLAA Draft Treaty With UK Detailed *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 24 Feb]* 30
Canal Employees Issue Communique on Adminstration *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 24 Feb]* 33

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Di Tella Says Policy 'Economically Oriented' *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 34
Defense Minister Leaving for Saudi Arabia 26 Feb *[TELAM]* 34
Minister on Attempted Alfonsin Assassination *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 34

Bolivia

Germany Agrees To Reschedule $37.8 Million Debt *[EL DIARIO 16 Feb]* 35
Government, Labor Federation Leaders Resume Talks *[La Paz Radio]* 35
* Exports Expected To Suffer From Gulf War *[LOS TIEMPOS 18 Jan]* 35
* Nontraditional Export Projections Forecast *[HOY 16 Jan]* 36
* Agricultural Production Continues To Drop *[LOS TIEMPOS 20 Jan]* 36

Brazil

Collor Explains Stand on Gulf to Allied Leaders *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 36
Poll Shows 49 Percent Support Economic Plan *[Brasilia Radio]* 37

Chile

Santiago Voices Support for Soviet Gulf Proposal *[Santiago TV]* 37

Colombia

Report on Gaviria Trip; Four Accords Signed *[Bogota TV]* 37
Jaramillo on Drug Trafficking, Policy Issues *[EL TIEMPO 22 Feb]* 37

Paraguay

President's Proposed Electoral Deadline Rejected *[ABC COLOR 23 Feb]* 39
Rodriguez Advocates Full Reform of Constitution *[ABC COLOR 23 Feb]* 39
Diplomatic Relations With Nicaragua Resumed *[Asuncion TV]* 40

Uruguay

Debt Negotiations With Private Banks Concluded *[Montevideo Radio]* 40
Resignation Date for Under Secretary Uncertain *[Montevideo Radio]* 40
Exports in 1990 Increase to Record $1.702 Billion *[Montevideo Radio]* 40

Cuba

Castro Comments on Gulf Situation at Havana PCC

FL2502040191 Havana Radio Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 2352 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at the closing session of the Havana City Province Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) Provincial Assembly, from the Palace of Conventions in Havana—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Nothing is new and nothing surprises us about what happened in the Persian Gulf. Everything we thought was going to happen is happening. We told everyone, all the parties, publicly, what was going to happen. Not only what we thought, but exactly everything we said was going to happen is happening. I do not want to expand on this subject. The conflict is at a critical point right now. The United States has refused a peaceful solution. What they want is a bloodbath. The Soviet Union made last-minute efforts to stop the actions based on the fulfillment of the UN resolution. They did not even accept that. What they want is a slaughter, a butchery by whatever means. They want to test their weapons, to kill tens of thousands, hundred of thousands of people. They want to create an environmental disaster with all the wells burning.

News today is contradictory. We have received reports throughout the day. We do not know exactly what is happening, the intensity of the fighting, or the offensive actions that are being conducted on the ground. We have seen again one of the most shameful pages of history with a war that had already been resolved. The pretexts of the war had already ended. The imperialists were adamant to continue it. We have seen their style, their massive bombing tactics, the use of sophisticated weapons, the fear of engaging in a ground fight. They fear a ground war more than the devil. They would prefer a technical war even if they were superior by 10 to one, 20 to one in technology and weaponry.

We have known this for a long time. None of this surprises us. This is why we have been working and preparing for an all-peoples' defense. In the midst of building camps and preparing for the Pan-American Games and all those things we have the defense projects. We will do more and more. We will not neglect that for a second. Fortunately, we have been thinking about this for a long time. We have worked for a long time. Now that we have a surplus of labor, we need to estimate how much cement, iron.... [changes thought] We should intensify the fortification and defense projects so that the Yankees know how things are with us.

Of course, I believe the Iraqis have defended themselves well. They have shown themselves to be courageous. This is not our kind of war. Unquestionably, we have had different ideas of war and defense. It would be a different type of war. They would have to face us man to man, with us and a [words indistinct]. It is not a matter of bombings and planes in which they drop bombs here and there. If they fight on the ground with us, man to man, they are going to remember Maceo's cavalry charges. [applause]

Of course, you know that the revolution has always been characterized by its cold blood and the great sense of responsibility. Unfortunately, it is unquestionable that Iraq made serious political mistakes. It hurts us. It gave the imperialists their great opportunity on a silver platter; their first big action as owners of the world. This resulted in the most shameful page of history ever written in the United Nations. There has been talk about all this. The lone star of Cuba shone there like it never had before. [applause]

I believe that a glorious page of Cuban policy and diplomacy was written there. We truly did everything possible to prevent this war, everything possible. We acted in all directions and with the Iraqis themselves. The documents are there for history, showing what we proposed and analyzed, telling them all the consequences that process would have. The rest of them decided to sit on a bed of roses and create a large coalition which included Arabs, Muslims, NATO, and Security Council agreements so they could do what they wanted, prevail there with all their might, control those natural resources, and impose their hegemony.

History will also characterize Cuba's behavior during this period: what we told each party and what we did until the end without a single mistake in each decision, each discussion, and even voting in what we condemned and rejected. I believe that our doctors have written another page. Most of them have not moved from their post. [applause] This is Cuba. Better yet, this is the spirit of Cuba. Our diplomatic personnel remained there. Everything could have happened there, nobody knows. Everything could still happen. We do not know where the barbaric offensive is going to stop, if they are going to occupy the entire country or if they are going to limit themselves to Kuwait, if they demand conditions. It is a dangerous situation. The diplomats, nurses, and doctors remain there.

This is the only country that did this. The only country that did this. [repeats himself] I believe that those compatriots of ours have given an impressive example. This does not surprise us at all. This is our people's usual behavior. The international opinion, expressed by all the diplomats at the United Nations in a open, direct, and indirect way, has recognized Cuba's role. Our country enjoys great authority at the United Nations because this coincided with the time in which we were at the Security Council. This is one more lesson the world receives of the imperialists' behavior, of how dangerous imperialists are if they feel alone in the world and owners of the world.

It would be very dramatic for the world if the USSR could not overcome its difficulties, if the USSR could not preserve its integrity, if the USSR could not continue being a superpower in the world. Today all the Third

World peoples who were bombarded so much by the propaganda against socialism and against the USSR will realize how terrible a world is with unilateral U.S. domination. This is very scary except for us. I do not believe [chuckles] there is anyone who is more at ease than us, that has more confidence in its destiny, its people, its strength, its values, and its principles than us. It could also be that we do not know what fear is. It is not that we are of a different species. Courage and fear has to do with concepts, philosophy, certain ideas, and certain values of society.

I do not know if there is a gene that gets inside people's heads. They call it a genetic intelligence. They must have passed us something. [laughter] That has been going on for a long time, since the October crisis. There were no people more tranquil, more level-headed, or calm than the Cuban people since then, since early on. The new generations are better educated in that rebellious free spirit, in that defiance. These are people who do not know what fear is. This is marvelous. Everything can happen and there will be no fear. There can be all the fears in the world and there will be no fear. The Yankees can end up being the masters of the world and there will be no fear because they will know that there is a little town, one, that says no. A small town will remain independent until the last consequences. When there is a small town capable of doing this today, there is no other choice than to respect it.

This is why we are at ease observing the events. We do not believe the last word has been said. We do not believe that imperialists can enjoy the pleasure of seeing the USSR disintegrate. This is a country with a great history and great heroism which is living a very difficult time. It can be seen that society is more and more aware of the dangers of this hour, of the imperialists' intentions, and of the need to preserve the USSR. This lesson of the Gulf will also give many examples... [rephrases] will give a great example and will teach the world opinion a lot. At the end, nobody will be able to take over the world, nobody will be able to be the master of the world. Those who attempt to do so are extremely crazy because this world with some 5 billion inhabitants is a volcano, it is ungovernable. It has so many serious problems that, even with the all the technological and military might, that country will not be able to impose its will on the world. We would not be the only ones to resist.

We are prepared. There is no other country better prepared for a time like this than Cuba. Incredible things have happened, the total collapse of the socialist camp within a few months. We had developed our economic relations in the face of the Yankee blockade. The incredible difficulties of the USSR have developed in a few years. We had counted on the Soviet support. Our economic relations were based on it. The imperialists are stronger, more arrogant, more spoiled, and madder at us—mad because they have seen our firmness, that nothing can dent the mood of our people. To have to face all these political and economic problems truly constitutes a big test and a challenge as only a country such as this one could face. We are prepared morally, mentally, and emotionally to face it. This is the wealth the revolution and the party has today. For the rest, in the midst of that euphoria, we can remind the Yankees of the famous song about the pirate—practically everyone read it when he was in high school, although I do not know if those little books still circulate. In my time they called it "The Pirate's Song," which said: If I die, what is life since I already gave it up, when the yoke of the slave as a brave man I shook off? We shook off the yoke a long time ago. [prolonged applause]

This explains our serenity, because a country that has been capable of shaking off all the yokes, the yoke of social slavery, the yoke of injustice, the yoke of colonialism, the yoke of neocolonialism, the yoke of tyranny, the yoke of slavery, will never know what fear is, will never be fearful of the idea of death, and much less when we know that we are not going to die, much less now. [laughter] Nobody is going to die because we are going to resist and because we know that we are going to win. [applause] In any case, there are great challenges in the economic camp or great challenges in the battlefield. This is why, comrades, let us say today with more reason than ever, with a greater conviction, and with more pride than ever: Socialism or death! Fatherland or death! We will win! [crowd joins in with slogan] [prolonged applause] [crowd chants: Fidel! Fidel!]

Castro Speaks at Santiago Party Assembly 17 Feb

PA2402032391 Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish 0030 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Speech by President Fidel Castro Ruz at the closing ceremonies of the Provincial Party Assembly in Santiago de Cuba on 17 February—recorded]

[Text] I wonder how the acoustics are here. Companeros and companeras, after 14 hours of meetings with brief recesses, it really would not be possible for anyone to speak for a long time. For the moment, I am promising myself, I am promising myself [repeats] this becasue it is better for me to come out badly with myself than with you, and I am going to keep my word by being as brief as possible.

We have analyzed the report. As companero Lasso explained, the report contains many topics. It would not be possible to discuss them all in one day. It was better to concentrate on a few important things. This does not mean that the other things are not important.

I read the whole report with its 35 or 37 pages. I found it to be a well-written report. It is very clear. It is a very brave report. It gathers everything, especially the opinions of the militants. It gathers the correlations, whatever the opinions, just or not, reasonable or not, but in any case respected because they are the opinions of our people.

We discussed many things, like if ANIR [National Association of Innovators and Efficiency Experts] should go, and if ANIR and the technical brigades should get together or not, or if any other changes should be made. We discussed whether Fruta Selecta [not further identified] and the other one should disappear. We discussed this, and a lot of things were taken away from Fruta Selecta, so that it would be basically a storage facility. These are things that can be analyzed. There are some institutions that have a reason for existing, like ensuring that a mango can be delivered to Varadero, or any tourist hotel, to be sold perhaps for $2. [sentence as heard] According to our former storage organization, the mango would have had to walk to Varadero all by itself, otherwise it would never get there.

We have reorganized Fruta Selecta for each tourist area, but even that can be debated. If things are organized someone will be able to carry the mango. For a time, it was a provincial setup. There was no national organization. All sorts of topics have been proposed, however, and they must all be anlayzed and debated before adopting decisions. If some decisions do not concur with the opinions of a large sector of the people, they must be fully explained. All the information must be given so that they know what can be done or should be done. The government party should not accept every opinion literally, even if it is a majority opinion. It would be a failure and almost cowardice for the leadership of a party or government to do just what the majority wants. The party's and government's duty is to guide, convince, and persuade. Often, some criteria are originated by a lack of information.

I was pointing out this example, however, because everything that was discussed in the assemblies is bravely included in the report. The report has been published completely, anyway. The report analyzes all the problems, from distribution to services, good or bad. It analyzes them in a frank and critical manner.

The report points out what is being done, where progress is being made, the problems we have, and everything that has been done in the struggle against crime. It notes what is being done and what should be done, and how it is necessary for the party, the militants, the people, everyone to participate, because this is everyone's battle.

All those negative factors, all those trends are in the report, and it is said in a very courageous manner. All of the topics are covered there. We are ashamed of some of them, while others give us great pride. The report mentions the attitude of the people during the special period, the efforts of the people in the defense of the country, the attitude of the working people in many issues. Actually, everything is covered in the report, and all of these topics must be part of the daily work of the party.

We must win that battle. Virtues are great, vices are bad. Anyone who does not pay for his transportation, regardless of how bad the transportation is, becomes a confirmed violator of the law. He is stealing from others, and he makes it a habit. That is a negative attitude.

In capitalism, if a bus company goes bankrupt, the buses go out of circulation, and that is it. Then, the few buses that are left running, charge high rates, and you know what happens to those who do not pay. That is not the way socialism operates.

The many problems that are analyzed in the report show the concern of the people, of the militants, so that things will be done as they should be, and so that we will not stop in our struggle against that negative trend. Sometimes, however, there are many who participate in these negative trends. We cannot rest in these efforts we are making. We are convinced that our system is 1,000 times more just, that our system is superior in every aspect.

Our revolutionary work is not done by angels from heaven, but by men, by human beings, with all of their virtues and defects. We could never allow the defects of man to become a dagger in the back of socialism.

That is what the capitalists try to say: Socialism cannot function because man is a little animal that only obeys when he is hit with a stick; man is incapable of having a conscientious life; man is incapable of planning his development; man is incapable of adjusting to ethics; man is selfish.

That is the philosphy of capitalism. Yet, nothing is more generous than man. A human being is capable of giving his life for others, of giving his life for the fatherland. Sometimes an entire nation of people sacrifice themselves for an ideal, for a cause. Only man is capable of doing that.

Only man is capable of much higher values, and only man is capable of socialism. Those of us who believe in socialism start from the premise of believing in man and of believing in the people.

When we see what our people are doing today, our faith in mankind increases as our faith in socialism grows. We are close to the empire, yet we are building socialism. Just look at how the Yankees dislike socialism everytime they want to wipe it from the face of the earth. They feel as if they own the world.

We remain here calmly and quietly building socialism. The collapse of the socialist world would have disappointed and demoralized anyone, but we here remain calmly, firmly, and confidently defending socialism and building it.

All of a sudden, many of the economic pillars of our development created throughout decades of history have disappeared; however, we have not been discouraged by it. On the contrary, we pride and preen ourselves and feel more encouraged to defend our beautiful cause. We are here defending and building socialism. Enormous problems have taken place in the USSR, prompting a series of changes and situations making commerce and trade very complicated; however, we have not been discouraged by it. We remain here defending and building socialism.

In a matter of months, petroleum supplies to Cuba have been reduced by nearly one-fourth. We still remain here with 25 percent less petroleum, carrying out countless plans and programs and cutting spending here and there. We have set priorities and observed the cooperation of the people who have reduced energy costs. [Words indistinct] turning off one light bulb, meaning that no home should be without energy. We have done this without increasing the price of energy. If we had increased prices, nothing would have to be explained. If you increase the price of energy threefold, you can rest assured that no announcement has to be published in the newspapers to cut consumption. This is what takes place in the capitalist world. It neglects the people and the poor. If the poor do not pay their bills, energy sevice is cut off. The revolution struggles and works hard to avoid taking such measures. It can resort to the formula of energy blackouts. There are countries such as Santo Domingo [as heard] where before the Gulf crisis started, energy service lasted four or five hours daily, while blackouts lasted 18 or 19 hours. Only the rich or those who have electricity plants [words indistinct] are able to maintain a supply of energy.

No capitalist country could take the blow taken by the Cuban revolution. From one year to another, in a matter of months, gentlemen, there is no way to predict the millions of people who would have been thrown out in the streets by this measure. The sacrifices of the people would have been enormous. In our country, not even one man has been fired. No worker can say: I have been fired or I no longer have a job. No one in this country has been fired.

Only a socialist regime could have really faced such a situation. You see what has happened in [words indistinct]. Has any child been left without going to school? No. Has any citizen not received medical attention? No. On the contrary, the contruction of the hopitals being built continued, though no construction of new hospitals has begun. The doctors who have graduated continue to join family doctor programs, the community, factories, schools, everywhere. The universities have not been closed; teachers, professors, and engineers continue to graduate from them. Nothing has stopped in our country that sustained a terrible blow.

Those who mistook our socialism for other kinds of socialism thought that it would collapse and would not resist. There is one of the problems; we got involved in the first phase of the special period, and here we are in the first phase of it. The more time passes by, the more ready we will be for a second or third phase, as no one can say what is going to happen. Nobody can determine the amount of fuel that will we receive this year. We have made some agreements. The problem is not the agreements or the goodwill of the party and government leaders who have signed these agreements with our country, but that we, of course, have received one-fourth less fuel.

Because the Soviets are unable to resolve their problems, as well as reorganize and recover, we have to determine whether or not we will get this exact amount of fuel throughout the year. Thus, there is nothing certain about the agreements that we have made. You cannot imagine how difficult commerce has become. One can sign specific agreements, but then enterprises decide whether or not to comply with them. Discipline has been disrupted. Thus, we do not know the seriousness of the special period's program.

We revolutionaries should be prepared for more hardships along the way, but we are confident that we will make whatever adjustments are required to adapt ourselves to the new circumstances, except for one—that is, going back and giving up on the revolution and socialism. If there is something we will never give up, it is the honor, dignity, independence, and the glory achieved by our people. We will never give up these principles, just as if we all had to go and plant tropical yams in the foothills of Las Lomas. Some people will take up this task more vigorously than others, but if those from La Gran Piedra can do it, why can we not?

I want to tell you that anything can happen, except a regression in our revolution, people, and country; the return of imperialism to Cuba; that the Yankees will again own this country—these same Yankees who did not allow Calixto Garcia and those who struggled for independence for 30 years in Santiago de Cuba. Can you imagine how bitter and humiliating it must have been? No matter what, the Yankees will never again own this country. Less than two years ago, I said in Camaguey that if the socialist world will disappear, we will not give up socialism. Well, the socialist world has already disappeared. Even if large problems and internal conflicts appear in the USSR, we will not give up socialism. This is what I said in Camaguey only a year and a half ago. Anyone who heard this may have said: Why is this being said? How can this be possible?

It could not have been imagined, but we are looking at it today. The USSR must consolidate. The USSR must liberate itself from disintegration. What the imperialists want is for the USSR to disintegrate so that nothing blocks their path and they can become the owners of the world. They want to do what they are currently doing in the Persian Gulf.

When we say that our country is a revolutionary country, a great truth is being stated. Of course, true revolutionaries and truly revolutionary people are tested during difficult times. Our country is demonstrating that it can resist any test. This special period may just be beginning. Therefore, perhaps the premier thought that we must have very clear and firm in our minds is the awareness that we are going through a very difficult stage. We must have the will to overcome any difficulty by any means.

As we have said so often, we would prefer to die than to give up socialism, independence, dignity, and our just

ideas despite the mistakes committed by man because, I repeat, we believe in man and we believe in the people.

Life has proved us right. I have asked a number of foreigners what went on in those countries. Those countries never had a true revolution. I exclude the USSR. The USSR did have a true revolution. A true revolution never took place in those other countries, it was a matter of circumstances. The revolution was imported. I have a saying: A people may be conquered, a people may be won for a good cause, but a people cannot be bought.

Sometimes, when we heard sermons, reports, words, or speeches, many of the leaders of those countries sounded as if socialism had been reduced to having two more pounds of wheat, three more pounds of ham, and five more square meters of cloth.

Our country did everything possible to increase the production of cloth, food, and other supplies, but it did not attempt to buy the people, because the people cannot be bought—no one chooses to die for five square meters of cloth or for a certain amount of a certain product. The people were told too much about consumption, consumption, consumption, but that is not socialism. Socialism is 1,000 times more than that. It is a great idea and it is a great human cause. It provides the first opportunity to achieve brotherhood among man, the opportunity to achieve true justice, true equality, true dignity, true independence, and true consideration as human beings. Capitalism is human [as heard], capitalism is repugnantly inhumane, and it is against justice, against equality, and against the dignity of man from all aspects.

I have told some of our visitors that a people may be persuaded for a great cause, a people may be won for a great cause, but a people cannot be bought. Those countries forgot about internationalism, they forgot about everything, which we have been witnessing. While there were tens of thousands of Cubans defending the independence of an African country and fighting against apartheid and thousands of doctors and teachers were challenging everything, as nearly 200 Cubans, mostly women, are currently doing under that terrible bombing [in Iraq] and none of them has asked to be taken out. [sentence incomplete as heard] On the contrary, when one of them has to be replaced for health reasons, it is a big headache to bring that person out. They have developed a spirit that is something else. The revolution must consist of very high moral and human values for which it is worthwhile to make any sacrifice and for which it is worthwhile to give one's life.

Therefore, I say that a people may be conquered, a people may be won over to the great cause of socialism—the most beautiful and marvelous cause in the history of humanity—but a people cannot be bought with a little increase in material goods. We have obtained many material goods, but that is a byproduct of the revolution, of justice. We could have obtained much more, you know, by working more efficiently. We have seen here all the things we can obtain.

Therefore, this process has taken place under such circumstances. The process of discussion of the party and the assemblies, this entire process coming from the rank and file and from the municipalities—where a series of new methods, criteria, and styles are being implemented—is taking place amid this special situation humanity is experiencing. In our case, we are experiencing it amid this special period, which may just be beginning.

Of course we are dedicating all our efforts toward decreasing the effects of this special period. We are dedicating all our efforts toward making it take the least amount of time possible. We are dedicating all our efforts toward obtaining as soon as possible the economic resources we need, especially so that we do not have to depend on others, but on ourselves.

It is impossible to ask a dependent country to become 100-percent independent from certain economic relations. Considering the monopolistic prices of fuel; the minimum amount of fuel that a developing country requires for transportation, public health, education, farming, agriculture, and industry; our products' currently low prices; and sugar's traditionally low, world market dump prices, it would be impossible to ask the country to rely solely and exclusively on our current resources.

There is no other way out but to make very big sacrifices to prevent our evolution from coming to a halt. We are not wasting time; we are beginning to manufacture bicycles. We have purchased bicycles and we are beginning the era of bicycles, in case a time should come when we would have to choose between repairing some of our buses or turning off our sugarcane combines. What would be the cost of sending 300,000 cutters to harvest the sugarcane? How many camps, how much clothes, shoes, and food would be needed? At any rate, we are building five bicycle factories as quickly as possible, and we are planning to purchase at least half a million bicycles per year from China. We have requested a certain amount of credit from them; we have paid for some and will pay for the rest later. Trade with this country is also increasing; they are beginning to purchase some of our pharmaceutical products, and new possibilities are emerging.

Our main goal during the special period is to seek the country's economic independence. This is our great economic strategy. We cannot survive on oil exports. We have conducted many explorations and searches for oil and we have produced approximately 1 million tons and nothing more. This oil has been of a heavy type; we have not had the good fortune of finding good oil deposits in our country, which would have been excellent for us. Just imagine. If we had this problem resolved we could say: Let us take it easy.

We have a very weak point, however, which is the production of power. Practically all of the power consumed in this country comes from oil. This is why we have the expense of approximately 13 million tons of oil. When the revolution triumphed Cuba was using approximately 4 million tons; but by how many times has the electrical system increased? How many people had power at the beginning of the revolution? Half of the people. Now the population has almost doubled and over 90 percent have power. Furthermore, they consume three times as much power per capita annually as that half did who had power prior to the revolution.

One point must be made: It is that oil products are sold at monopolistic prices that have nothing to do with costs. Since the products are in high demand, their producers impose prices. These are not even market prices. If there were market prices for oil as there are for many other products, oil prices could be incomparably lower than they are now. Oil is sold at monopolistic prices that have increased even more because of the Gulf crisis. We do not know what those prices will be after the Gulf crisis passes.

Cuba has even established contacts with certain multinational firms because we do not even have the resources to continue drilling holes and exploring. Some of these firms tell us that those same wells can yield 24 instead of 12 [not further identified]; that they will provide the technology; and that we must pay them with the difference or a portion of the difference. Very well, we say, Cuba will take 18 and we will give you six. It is better to have 18 now than to have none at all.

We have divided the island into blocks, with the exception of certain areas that we are exploiting, and certain touristic areas where we do not want oil wells cropping up. We do not want a repetition of Varadero, where oil towers and the odor of sulphur competed with tourism. Some comrades wanted to drill wells there because there were 100,000 barrels, 100,000 tons, in that area. The peninsula's touristic potential, however, was 60 or 70 times more—when fully developed—than what the oil was worth. The oil can stay there. We cannot drill oil wells all over the peninsula itself; what would the tour guides and all of the people who come here say if they saw the entire area full of oil wells?

This is why we camouflaged the equipment that remained in the area. We are implementing measures to control gas, to prevent competition, but we do not want this to happen in other areas.

Nevertheless, we have divided the island into lots. If you want to test for oil, you must do so at a risk. If you find oil you must cover all of the expenses; if you find any oil we are partners. That is fine. If we had the resources to drill for oil we would, however, there is no other alternative at present but to do it this way, and we have established contact with multinational companies.

There is also a growing number of individuals who are telling us that our textile factories will soon be out of business. They tell us that if we do not have the raw materials we could make a deal whereby they would provide the raw material, we would become commercial partners, and we would pay them with the product. When these factories stop operating we will tell them yes; if they want to do business at one of these factories that have been closed due to the lack of raw material, they can. We have the factory and the work force, and we are willing to make an economic deal. After all, what sense would it make for us to go to Laguna Blanca to set up 100 caballerias of airborne microjets with a capitalist partner? We know how to do that, it is for our consumption, we pay for it in pesos, and we can invest our few cents in it. Of course, we can add to our few cents the little money that we can get here and there, and by making medicine and basic foods our priorities, we can use our few cents for activities that will generate money.

In tourism, of course, we have agreed to mixed partnerships. A hotel may cost $15 million in foreign exchange but we do not have it, so we are spending at least a small amount on hotels for tourism. This is money that is recovered in three or four years, quickly, very quickly. We have more important things on which to spend the little money that we have, however. First of all there are our agro-nourishment programs, which allow us to save on imports and guarantee the population's foods. That is strategic. We have scientific research programs and the results of this research, however; we have biotechnological programs, the pharmaceutical industry, and a series of important areas in which to invest our money. This is why we have accepted a partner, but if a medicine factory turns out to be a gold mine it is ours, because it will yield a lot more than the money invested in the hotel. So, we carefully select where we can allow partnerships with a multinational company, where we can do business with them. No multinational firm can come here to discuss or negotiate as if we were a government at the service of capitalists or multinational companies. This government is at the service of socialism and it is building socialism, however, under the exceptional conditions that have been created, this government must be fully aware of what it is doing and how it is doing it. We are currently carrying out some of these economic operations.

At present we are making the most of the invitations, and I want you to know this. Of the $4 or $5 million made during 1990, 80 percent belonged to Cuba; and the possible $5 or $6 million that will be made this year is not trifling. Most of it is ours. If one of our partners says, however: Listen. I am willing to invest half the cost of developing one of the cays and I will contribute $1 billion, we would say: Put the $1 billion there. We would know where to rapidly invest the few cents that we were going to invest in the hotel on that cay. We do not publicize this very much; even now my remarks must be guarded because I would not want to highlight our strategy and basic ideas on the subject.

We say we have three [number as heard] priorities: The food program and the tourist program—everyone realizes that the objective is to procure the foreign currency that the country needs. Tourism can earn us in one day 1 billion, or if it is 2 billion [currency not specified] so much the better, or 3 billion, then excellent. This will not come quickly, but it can be done. We have fabulous natural resources and a healthy society. These days no one wants to fly on European or American airlines, but everyone is delighted to fly on our little Cuban airplane. Tourists come quietly to the country feeling very secure, without the fear many people have that a bomb might be on their plane because of the Persian Gulf adventure. Surely this country has some fabulous resources: a clear sky, pure air, the sea. To not exploit it.... [changes thought] We could do it on our own, but it would take us perhaps 40 years, but we need to develop these resources quickly in 10 years.

We need to develop our food program even faster. That is clear. We have, for example, 180,000 hectares to grow rice. It could be slightly more or slightly less—perhaps a certain area has been used for sugarcane production, but it must be about 180,000 hectares. For example, we are very rapidly building the dams that will supply water for the 180,000 hectares of rice plantations. We have a 1 billion [not further identified] dam on the Zaza River; but right there on the Hanabana River another 1 billion [not further identified] dam is being built. We are also building a canal from the Zaza River to the Camaguey Province border, and we might even go as far as south Camaguey, to take water to the rice and dedicate some of the dam water to sugarcane production. This will be a 95-km canal, and afterward it might even be longer. Wherever we are able to build a dam to help supply water for our food program, we will build it. We are building 30 dams at once. This takes quite an effort, and look at the times during which we are doing it. Four years ago we were not even building 20 percent of the dams, canals, and irrigation systems—something very serious—that we are building today. We are, however, delivering water to the rice. The Cauto River's rice will be planted in April. We plan to have a water reservoir of 300 million cubic meters for the great Cauto rice plantation. We have just dammed El Corojo River, which can deliver more than 100 million [not further identified] even though the reservoir has a slightly smaller capacity. Cautillo River in Granma Province—three great dams. We plan to close up El Corojo in April so that we can have water in the spring for the rice we are planting. We intend to start immediately on the dams in other areas in the Granma Province area. There will not be a river left without a dam, either for rice or for sugarcane.

We are doing the same in Camaguey Province. We are building the Melones dam with a capacity of hundreds of million [not further identified], but the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces engineers are already there with tunnel construction specialists because there we are going to build eight or 10 km of tunnels to take the water from the Mayari River to the Holguin Province's drought area and surroundings. We are already planning to use the rivers east of the Mayari River—the Levisa River, even the Sagua River—and accumulate 800 million cubic meters of water and send the water through the tunnels to the north side of Oriente Province and as far as Las Tunas Province. We are doing this work now, closing dams, opening tunnels, and not losing any time. We are even studying the Toa River, which is not an irrigation river, to see when we can use it quickly for hydroelectric power and have at least power available for peak demands—between the Moa and the Toa Rivers. Too bad there are no flatlands to plant rice or something else; instead we have the sea. The hydroelectric plants we plan to build will have a capacity for peak hour demands of between 350,000 to 400,000 kilowatts. There is not a single dam left for vegetables, for sugarcane, for rice that we are not closing. Never has the country reached such a construction level. Nearly all the labor force used to build these are contingents. Just four years ago construction forces were disorganized; the system used disorganized them. The brigades were disorganized; today there are hundreds of brigades being organized, but there are dozens of brigades organized as contingents doing this construction. We also have 15 brigades that have been working with the rice. We intend to convert all these 180,000 hectares or 170,000 hectares into flat terraces [as heard] and apply the [word indistinct] system to all these rice fields.

We are going to need 40 hectares, but this year we have 15. In two years we expect to have the 40 hectares—excuse me, I mean 40 brigades. We expect to have the 40 brigades in two more years. We already have some equipment reserved for this. We will have the flat terraces after four years or five years at the most, once we have the 40 brigades. These flat terraces save water. By saving water this allows two plantations a year using the same amount of land. This will give us a minimum of 220,000 hectares of planted fields. We plan a yield of no less than three tons of rice-grain per hectare. This could be slightly more; we are studying varieties and many other things—we are using science.

Today, our rice production is between 250,000 to 300,000 tons. With this rice program we should surpass 600,000 tons, but should produce 600,000 tons as a minimum. Then we would fully satisfy all our rice needs. Now we spend millions importing rice. Some of it comes from the USSR. There had been some delays last year and there were delays this year.

We have increased our requests to import rice from China. Of course, we will pay for it with sugar. Anyway, tens and tens of millions are involved, which we could invest in something else in the future. According to our plans, we should be able to meet the country's full rice demands in a few years. This is very important. Regarding sugarcane, four years ago there were not even five drainage and plot irrigation brigades spoken about. We have 201 such brigades working at present. We have built an irrigation system plant in Guantin, Bayano, which can produce more than 1,000 of the machines

already able to operate with our own engines. What we are doing in the sugarcane industry is very serious. We never dreamed of doing what we are doing in this field—dams, canals, irrigation systems, and plot irrigation brigades in the field, which we can use to flood fields or work with machines of the (?Fregado) type. You can see the effort. In three years, we have advanced from zero to 201 brigades. We need a few more. We found, for instance, that the Oriente Province requires three more. Not Oriente, but Santiago. We also know that the province of Havana needs three or four more. Maybe we will organize 15 or 20 more in the rest of the country. In essence, however, the majority of this force has been organized.

In the past few years, we devoted 5,000 caballerias of sugarcane fields to the cultivation of edible roots and vegetables. In the past few years, we doubled the irrigation areas, from about 7000 to 14,000 caballerias, devoted to the cultivation of edible roots and vegetables. We have made a tremendous effort in the past three years. The province of Havana contributed with 500 caballerias. All right, 425. Havana will now allocate 325 caballerias of sugarcane fields to the cultivation of edible roots and vegatables to complete those 154 square meters being spoken about. In this way, no edible roots and vegetables will have to be sent from any one province under normal conditions. Nevrtheless, there will be more sugarcane in Havana because we will expand irrigation to include 5,000 caballerias. We will apply plot irrigation wherever possible. Havana is producing 630,000 tons of sugar, which is enough for the entire country. Havana has nearly 8,000 caballerias planted with sugarcane, which will produce more sugar than at present because of the higher yield. We will also be testing microjet systems and all that. The sugarcane yield will increase.

This effort not only aims at producing more sugar. In part, we could produce more sugar. We have clients who could buy 200,000 or 500,000 more tons. For instance, the Soviet Union needs our sugar. It is a vital article for them, just as they need our nickel and others of our products. We have other markets, like the Chinese, for instance. We have a large market for our sugarcane, the food program. We enrich molasses with protein and feed pigs this mixture. We have saccharin, which is the result of research just as is the protein-enriched molasses. These products help cattle. It is possible to produce 3 million tons of saccharin with the sugarcane necessary to produce 1 million tons of sugar. We hope pigs can be fed only with saccharin. Only cows and sheep, however, can eat large quantities of saccharin. We are conducting experiments and working hard all the time.

This irrigation effort with sugarcane and rice benefits the population more than exports although of course we hope to continue to export large quantities of sugar. We have new technologies in the cultivation of citrus fruits. We will have between 160,000 and 170,000 hectares devoted to the cultivation of citrus fruits. We are planning to apply the drip irrigation system to 1,000 caballerias every year. We will renew plantations and patterns, make grafts of better quality, improve the distance from one plant to another, and increase the yield. In sum, we will apply the most up to date methods in the citrus fruit plantations for our consumption. We are already among the world's largest consumers of citrus fruits. In the future, we will not speak of hundreds of thousands of tons or 1 million tons, which is more or less our current capacity. We will speak of millions of ton of citrus fruits. We have been approached by plenty of people who want to buy frozen juices from us.

We will apply our methods to this industry, just as we will apply them to several types of plantain. These are truly revolutionary methods, but we will continue along this path. You heard the discussion of how we could obtain proteins for hogs, etc. Of course the program in which we are making our greatest effort is the field of biomedicine, the pharmaceutical industry, and related research, which ranges from vaccines to products that can lengthen life and solve many vital problems. Our struggle deals closely with everything related with man's circulatory and heart systems, cancer, AIDS, and parasites. It has ben said that the country will become a medical power. This is certainly what will happen. Many people come to Cuba because nowhere else can retinitis pigmentosa be cured. Others come for a medication against vitiligo. There are clinics employing Cuban products. Cuba's prestige in the field of medicine has increased to unimaginable levels.

Yet we will not only work in fields related to human health, but we will work intensely in everything related to animal health. Man needs medicines not only for himself but for the animals that serve him as food, and the animals are victims of many diseases. We are going to work intensely on everything dealing with the health of plants, the production of medicines for animals, and medicines for plants, such as pesticides, fungicides, and the like. With very up to date methods, we will also devote our efforts to all that has to do with seeds. In this field we will occupy one of the first places in the world. We can discover a new strain of sugarcane through a culture of tissues. Twenty years were previously required to breed such a strain. In one year, we can produce millions of seeds and plant in a very short time all the sugarcane of this type we want. Something similar could happen with a new strain of pineapple, plantain, or any other product. We could also build seed plants to save the $10 million we still spend on potato seed. In other words, we are giving tremendous impetus to all that has to do with biotechnology and the reproduction and creation of new strains of seeds.

This is not a narrow but a very broad field in which the country will take full advantage of the conditions created in all these years. The development of intelligence—what a great resource. There is no crude oil but there are brains in growing numbers because the special peacetime

measures will not stop the scientific progress or the development of new cadres and new researchers.

On the contrary, we are going to put all the universities to work on research. All groups of workers able to contribute to research are receiving the country's decided support right now. The results can be seen because of the messages we sent to Santiago de Cuba only a few weeks ago, and the steps adopted based on Santiago's high intellectual potential. We will start to exhaustively use Santiago's intellectual potential.

You can see for yourselves, as it was said here in this assembly. I am not speaking of a general strategy. We are thinking of conducting that strategy during a special period. Right now we are taming 2,000 oxen. More or less in March we will have finished taming 100,000 oxen. In April we will be working on taming 100,000. We are getting ready, in case we run out of fuel for our tractors, to do the work with oxen. That is what we have to use, oxen, bicycles, everything that is needed to prevail firmly, untiringly on the path of the revolution, which is the path of the future, of mankind, because imperialism will never be able to take over the world. No one can take over the world. The world has so many problems that anyone trying to take over the world would have to be crazy. The world is ungovernable. Remember that I am telling you this. No one can rule the world, and it will be increasingly harder to rule. There will be many problems, wars, and disasters of all kinds, however.

If the USSR were to disappear as a great power, these madmen would be the rulers of the world. These are the worst kind of madmen you can imagine, however, we must absolutely not be afraid of them. We must trust that history will continue on its course. More than 5 billion human beings will not be able to face reality. It is not possible. They are living in an increasingly worse and disastrous situation. [applause]

In the assembly, as you have seen, we have concentrated on four topics. It was well that we discussed the province's food programs concretely, and the caballerias that we will irrigate. If the companeros in this province set their hearts to it, we will have 900 by the end of the year. Perhaps the rest will take longer. We need a lot of pipes and other things. Sometimes there is a delay in the fuel shipments. Sometimes it is some tubes. Sometimes it is transportation. It would be more reasonabale if we were to say that by the middle of 1992 we will have the 900 caballerias for edible roots and vegetables. Do not forget this. We already have the figures.

We will have 100 caballerias of cereals. This will add up to 1,000 caballerias. This means that Santiago will produce its own edible roots and garden vegetables. We are going to study this program even further, because fortunately, we have the experience of what we have done in other provinces.

In a few months more, because right now we have planted so many caballerias, we will ask, will there be a surplus? Will there be a shortage? For the spring program in the two provinces of Havana we used to say that we had 40 or 45, 50, 60 caballerias of eggplant, and vegetables. How about the market? What is the demand for string beans? We had a plan for 135 caballerias. We had 100 [caballerias] of okra, 300 of cassava, and 300 of sweet potatoes. We argued whether to plant more yuca or less sweet potatoes. We argued how much land and time we needed for each crop. Then we argued about when would we need the land for planting tomatoes, potatoes and other things. This was argued at the Executive Commitee of the Council of Ministers. I personally met, and not for the first time, with all the directors of enterprises and the representatives of the peasant cooperatives and individual farmers. There we really coordinate very well what we do among the three sectors. There were the party secretaries of municipalities debating over each individual caballeria.

I know that next year the information we have will be that perhaps these 60 caballerias were not enough, but it is enough. Never before have we planted 60 caballerias of eggplant, or 100 of okra, or 135 of string beans, or 300 of sweet potatoes, or 300 of cassava, or 225 of squash, or 225 of cucumbers. Never before! We now have so much cucumber that next year, we will plant 180 caballerias.

In other words, as months go by, as a six-month period of time goes by, we know better what has to be done. People say that the food program for liberating [as heard] the country means thousands of trucks loaded with edible roots and garden vegetables have to be sent and that is the responsibility of the central government. We are doing that. That experience helps us very much. As I was telling Comrade Laso, Havana will have to have 525 caballerias of tomatoes next year. Havana is four times larger [as heard]. I told him, 50 caballerias of tomatoes is not enough, if you want to be self-sufficient in tomatoes. You would need at least 100 caballerias of tomatoes, in addition to hydroponics.

What we have seen in other places gives us experience. That is why we are going to work more on this Santiago plan of edible roots and garden vegetables. We are going to make it more exact, more adequate in order to supply amply the province with those 1,000 caballerias. To top it all, there are some yams being planted throughout the various yam centers in the area. That is great. There are also sweet potatoes, and plenty of caballerias are being devoted to that.

Therefore, I have no doubts about the food program. In addition, we are giving Santiago Province full support, everything we can give so that it will implement that food program. That is a sure thing, a very sure thing. The dams are being built, the land irrigation channels are being built, the entire land irrigation system is being built. [Words indistinct], and we will have a dam in (Guaninicu), and nothing will scare us. We will build one or two, and we will plant sugarcane. Maybe we will plant 50 caballerias of sugarcane using microjet. I do not have the slightest doubt about those 10 hectares we will plant here. That will yield about 400,000 arrobas. I have seen

300,000 arrobas produced with normal irrigation and 10 or 12 tons of fertilizers in 15 months. What I want to know is what it will yield in 12 months, if it rains every day. Then you will have to invite the doctor of the mulatto [not further explained] to see the sugarcane business because he wants to produce sugar even in the Sierra Maestra, just in case the special period in peacetime gets very difficult.

Today we are applying science and techniques. That is what we were doing; that is the number one principle: to apply intensively the most modern scientific techniques. That is it: science devoted to agriculture. Maybe we have to invent some things or see what others have done. We are not obligated to invent everything. Some of those techniques were developed by the transnational banana companies, particularly those having to do with the surface. Later, they went into working with aerial techniques, but they did this little by little. We have improved that technique, and we are applying it.

Probably this year we will plant approximately 1,000 caballerias of bananas using microjet. We are working on those plans.

We had a factory in Cienfuegos that makes hoses (mangueras) 10,000 km long, and now we are doubling that to 20,000. We had another factory.... [changes thought] No, we did not have another one. Where we were planning to build the steel and industry plant and other buildings, we are building a second factory that will make those 20,000-km long hoses.

That allows use to use microjet or drip drop irrigation for citrus, and to use microjet for plantains. It even allows us a conserve if there is a major hurricane somewhere in the country and we have to rebuild those hoses again. In that case even.... [changes thought] If we have to build a third factory, we will, if this technique can be applied to other crops, and for some reason it may be worth applying it. I will give you an example. If you say you are going to build a sugar mill, I ask how much is a sugar mill worth and how much is its sugarcane worth. How much is it worth it to use 20 caballarias.... [changes thought] It is enough to have 20 caballerias. Those 20 caballerias do the job of the other 50 caballerias. You can say: Let us use the 50 caballerias, so it may be necessray to expand the sugar mill. It is not the same to have a caballeria producing 50,000 [product not specified] than a caballeria producing 300,000 or 400,000. I have no doubts; I have a lot of hope, but we will see what happens to the sugarcane in our climate with daily rains. The province will receive the resources it needs for these plans we have discussed here. The province will receive priority in this respect. That is clear. That is going to be done, just as is the program we are carrying out in Occidente and the ones all over country, although the former program is intense and strong. It is very intense. This involves 3,000 caballerias because we have to plan for 2.7 million [product not specified], and in this area for vegetables and tubers we have to plan for 700,000. Now, I want to say that the fact that Santiago is self-sufficient constitutes a feat. That feat is greatly related to the commitment and drive of Comrade Lazaro. [applause]

He said, he said [repeats]: We would like to be self-sufficent. We took a first step a short while back. This gigantic plan is barely three years old—the whole thing. I am not just talking about the tubers and vegetables. We allocated a few sugarcane areas for tubers and vegetables, namely, the Baire area and other places. We concluded this is what was needed. It seemed very difficult. Would there be enough land to provide tubers and vegetables to a million residents, without doing away with the sugarcane? That was the problem. The search for areas to plant plantains began and how to implement the modern technique that was being developed.

Now, this is all very clear. We saw at the National Assembly that providing tubers and vegetables to the Oriente Province was easier than to provide these products to the Havana City and Province. When we had 900 caballerias, plus the other 100 caballerias in Ciego de Avila with 1,000 [product not specified], 1,000 [repeats], and with what we already know of the results of the new techniques.... [changes thought] This new technique is what enables us to do all that with just 1,000 caballerias.

If we continued with the plantain that produced 3,000 quintals when the 1,000 caballerias dedicated to this purpose are not enough.... [changes thought] There were 1,000 caballerias with irrigation, not counting the hydroponics, which was one of the first efforts that were undertaken. I am saying that it is a feat that the province is maintaining its sugarcane production, and maybe increasing it, that the province is self-sufficent in tubers and vegetables, and that the province has this plan for overall centers almost completed, and that this began a little less than three years ago. I think it began following an anniversary. When was it? [inaudible answer] The brigades, the means, and resources were organized and swine centers began to be built. The money necessary, $1 million, was sought to build that plant, which was the last one to be set up, the one in Mella. The centers or plans for liquid animal feed were begun to be built, and the program was promoted full steam ahead. Contingents to carry it out were organized. The idea and the concept of the contigent go hand in hand here.

Afterwards, we did not stop until organizing a contingent for livestock. Lazo told me: We still have land and can build over 100 dairy farms. We were already conducting the program with the 300 dairy farms in Camaguey Province, as well as the programs in Ciego de Avila, Tunas, Granma, and Pinar del Rio. We had not started in Santa Clara. We had six fronts, and then we opened a front in Santa Clara. We built the livestock front here in Santiago de Oriente.

The poultry plan was already being conducted in the major experimental center. The dams were being built. All of this will translate into top quality agriculture, that is highly technical, attractive, and exemplary. It was

proved that in Santiago de Oriente Province it is possible to produce all these foods, without hurting production of over 400,000 tons of sugar. We are going to double milk production. We are going to increase production of pork meat by seven times. We are going to increase—who knows by how much—it must be seven or eight times—the production of tubers and vegetables.

How many have 500,000? [no product specified] [inaudible answer] Imagine, just that in plantains with 200 caballerias. We are increasing production by seven times. You add all the rest. I think the production of tubers and vegetables in a short time will have increased at least, at least [repeats] 10 times in the Santiago de Oriente Province. This is a revolutionary agricultural development, and something the province residents will feel proud of. They are going to have huge amounts of fish from sweet waters because of all the dams we have built. Still, I do not imagine Santiago de Oriente as an agricultural province. I do not regard it as an agricultural province. Agriculture for us must be a kind of sport for applying socialist methods, techniques, and science to it; we must feel satisfaction over what we can produce here in small agricultural areas, and not just half million tons of sugar, but also self-sufficiency in all those things that come from other provinces.

I am not talking about rice. We are not going to start planting rice now in those tiny lots in the mountains. There is no need for that. We cannot be self-sufficient in everything, like wheat and other things. We will always have to import wheat and some other crops. Cuba exports food for 40 million people. We will have to import those foodstuffs that can not be grown here because of our climate. If the situation becomes extremely difficult, we will still have all these plans for edible roots and vegetables. Then perhaps we will eat less bread, and instead of making hamburgers with bread we will make them with cassava.

I say that agriculture is going to become a hobby [preceding word in English] of this province. It is going to be a pleasure, a love for the earth and the countryside. I see this province as an industrial province. I see Santiago as an industrial city and the province in general as industrial. The economic values of this province are not going to depend on the amount of sweet potatoes, yuca, yams, and pigs, or milk that we are going to proudce. I have already said that even if we duplicate our milk production, it would not be enough for our needs. I see this province, first of all, as an industrial province.

This is what we have been doing. We built the country's largest textile mill here, however, it is having problems with raw materials, spare parts, and others items. We will not abandon this textile mill. We might have to close it for a time, but no worker is going to lose his job until we start operating it again. We will have other industries. Here we have the oil refineries, cement plants, and the mechanical industry. I see Santiago de Cuba as an industrial area, whose industry will be the main contribution to the country's economy. We are also industrializing other areas, like San Luis, and La Palma. I do not see them as agricultural cities, and I do not see the province as an agricultural provicne. Ciego de Avila is an agricultural province, with its production of vegetables, sugar, and other things. It has a small population. This is an industrial province, however. In the second place, I see this province as a great tourist province. We will have an industrial pole and a tourist pole. I believe there is nothing comparable to the beauty of the highway from here to Pilon. Imagine all the things we can do there. There is nothing comparable to the beauty of the coastline from here to Baconao. I have never seen anything that can match the beauty of these mountains that surround Santiago de Cuba. Nothing can match the hospitality of the people of Santiago de Cuba. From colonial times until the revolution, there has been nothing comparable to the history of Santiago de Cuba.

Besides, the city has its own style, its own characteristics, which fortunately have been conserved. The whole province should become a great tourist attraction. I see this province as an important point in obtaining convertible foreign currency. I see the province and the city of Santiago de Cuba as a great educational center, with its universities and schools of higher learning, technological schools, and junior colleges. I see Santiago de Cuba as a great cultural center, with its traditions, history, music, and art. I see Santiago de Cuba as a great scientific center. This is only the beginning. We are thinking of creating a biological center here, something else there, and another factory somewhere else.

I can already see each pig breeding facility with 10 hectars of chlorella. I am sure that we can solve all these problems. I foresee that when we figure things out and find the most economical way of doings things, we will be great producers, and we will be able to feed chlorella to the pigs and fowls. We must start developing the use of solar power. I see Santigo as a great scientific center in biomedicine, biotechnology, and in all these fields that have been developed in line with the revolution's strategy and in other areas.

If we concentrate our basic efforts on biomedicine, the pharmaceutical industry, and all that, it does not mean that we are forgetting about (ciolita) or about synthetic (ciolita), lubricants, and anything else that can be done in that industry, or in the manufacutring industry.

We do not yet have the program ready, however, if we set our minds to it, we can use all of the city's scientific capabilities. This city has its own children's cardiovascular surgery clinic. In the future, children less than a year old will have to be operated on here. Now all that is concetrated in a medical center in Havana. This will be the second one. I can already see this city applying the most modern scientific advances, as it is doing with the lithotrity, and other methods. I can already see this city having excellent hospitals, like the one we are building here, which will have 1,000 or 1,200 beds. We will not

believe what we have on our hands [sentence as heard]. We are also going to have people coming here for medical treatment. We are not going to be able to use all those beds. We are going to be able to set aside some of them for tourists who become sick while they are in Cuba, or if they want to come here for a kidney, bladder, or heart operation.

I can concieve Santiago de Cuba as a great scientific center. I do not see it as an agricultural town. Agriculture will be merely an example of how a socialist country can produce those foodstsuffs in surplus quantities. Here we are not trying to produce just what we need, but more. To have what we need, we must work to have a surplus. If we have a surplus of over 100,000 quintals of sweet potatoes, the people of Mella will be delighted. They are going to have to build a new fodder processing plant. Then they will start figuring out how to feed the fifth center.

We might have a surplus in the sugar industry, or in a yeast factory that we built. We might build a factory of liquid fodder to complete a program. I repeat that if there is a surplus of something, we will be delighted. If there is surplus yuca, all the better. If there is a surplus of plantains, it would not be good to feed it to the pigs. We would have to find a customer. There will always be a customer. We can tell him that we have so much plantain of this quality at this price and see if he wants it. We should not worry, however, about having a surplus of any of those products. It is very important for me to stress this criteria.

There might be other provinces with more agricultural production than Santiago. The province of Havana—not the city, but the province—is unquestionably a strong agricultural producer. It produces more than 600,000 tons of sugar, 3,000 caballerias of food and vegetables, almost 1 million of liters of milk per day. It also has a high avicultural and porcine production. It is a province with a high agricultural development. There is also some industrial development. Camaguey could also be regarded as an agricultural province.

I see Santiago as an agricultural province in regard to its standard of living and well-being and what the revolution and socialism can do, and what the people of Santiago can do. We should not forget, not even for a second, what this province should be. It is also the scientific and cultural capital of the rest of the oldest eastern provinces; it rivals with the capital of the republic in scientific advancements. I can see this city's great development in all those areas. As I mentioned before—I mentioned the industrial, tourist, educational, cultural and scientific fields.

Although I mentioned the scientific field last, it does not mean that it is in the fifth place. Science is vital for the country today. This goes back to many years ago. Since the beginning we had many plans, because then we knew that science was vital, but we did not know how much. We knew that it was important and decisive, but we did not have experience about scientific centers and their organization. We implemented plans, but we did not have scientists, which developed gradually. Each time there was a better selection and greater advancement. Today it is a powerful force.

As I said during a meeting I had a few days ago with a group of scientists .... [changes thought] It was really a group of scientist organizations, because I can tell you that in the western region science has developed spectacularly, and this can be seen in the results and in the tremendous possibilities it offers, not only for the benefit of our people, but as economic possibilities.

We see the tragedies affecting Latin America. Right now there is a cholera epidemic in Peru. No one knows how far it will go. When a plague of this nature hits a city where millions of people live in unhealthy neighborhoods, it is difficult to control. There was a time when they only had 2,000 doses of serum. This serum was necessary to hydrate cholera patients. We sent them 20,000 doses to save lives. Our scientists immediately started studying the cholera problem to see how soon they can produce a specific vaccine against that type of cholera. I can tell you that in the next six months, or in a few weeks, we can have the vaccine against cholera. Right now there are construction projects, investments in various fields, which make it a little more difficult, but not impossible. We are going to be champions in the field of vaccines of all kinds.

Can you imagine what would happen if Cuba announced: We have a vaccine for that type of bacterium, or for a wide range of bacteria, which can be purchased by the entire hemisphere at such and such a price? Not even the Yankees could do it as fast as we can, I can assure you. Not even 24 hours are necessary from the time a scientific discovery occurs until the time when a decision is made.

That is why I referred to the scientists' work style. We cannot waste a day, an hour, a minute, or a second. There have been great scientific advancements. It is advancing in other provinces too: in Camaguey, Santi Espiritu, Villa Clara. No one wants to stay behind.

In the past, science was important in our country, but now it is the center of our activities, of the activities of the revolution. When we say science we include everybody: innovators, thinkers, and juvenile technological brigades.

You know that the forum on spare parts turned out to be a great meeting. We used to have this kind of meetings every two years. Now we are going to have them annually. Scientists will participate in these meetings, in a separate category, of course. Scientists have to be careful with what they are doing. We cannot give away intellectual property. We cannot give away secrets. We cannot publish in newspapers what we are doing. If they find out, well they found out, but then we have to see if they can compete with us. I think we can produce any

medicine that is produced by any transnational enterprise. We are paying attention to all scientific research, to research related to the field of science.

We want Santiago de Cuba to occupy an outstanding position in this scientific struggle. [applause] If necessary we will use any building to install whatever equipment we may need, and then we will take another building to install there whatever else we may need, and when needed, we will call our brave and enthusiastic construction people and tell them: Listen, we have to do this here, quickly, within eight, 10, or 12 months. Have no fear with regard to the construction workers.

We have to say this with regard to our construction workers because of the great effort they have made regarding the congress and the Pan American Games, and not only because of this, but also because of their work regarding the food program, and because they build factories, dairy farms, dams, irrigation systems, porcine farms, and super airports.

Only the revolution can resolve problems that appear without solution. It appeared that the airport case had no solution. An airport for Santiago de Cuba? Well, it would have to be built around El Mella or Los Mangos de Baragua; I do not know. Imagine an airport in Los Mangos de Baragua! I saw the basin there and I said: Gentlemen, do not we build dams? Is not this basin a dam? The Zaza Dam used 10 million cubic meters of construction material. Others used 1 million cubic meters. I wondered: How many cubic meters are necessary to fill this hollow? The hollow was filled, and now we have a great four-km long airport.

Everthing has a solution. The revolution was right. The cost of building this airport was inferior to what it costs to build a dam. I think we used 2 million cubic meters of material.

This is an impressive and tremendous airport we have in Santiago de Cuba, and right next to the city! It takes five minutes to get from the airport to the city. An impressive airport! It will be able to handle approximately 700 tourists every hour. Imagine, 700 every hour. This means more than 1 million, perhaps 1.5 million tourists. When we need installations, we will call on our brave construction workers and we will tell them: We want to extend this or that. We would not want to extend the runway. We could, but it is not necessary. If we do, that runway will look like an airfield for launching rockets into space.

We have an original, attractive, and safe airport that was built in a short period of time. We have a city surrounded by super highways now. Which of us who knew Santiago with its narrow streets and its problems would have been able to predict that Santiago would have a a superhighway circumventing it? That is what it is. Now when I use that highway I do not have to use the old streets. In a matter of minutes you are on the speedway and can head for Palma, or San Luis, or Mella, or Guantanamo. You can head for this hospital or for El Caney road in a matter of minutes. You can go to Baconao. That is a beautiful road that was built in a matter of months. Everybody should see how much the aspect of the city has changed with the loop, which goes all the way to Malverde, and there is the railroad to the refinery, and a new terminal, and a big highway. We are going to decide now whether we should now work on Guantanamo or on Bayamo. We have to make that decision. We also have a pretty train station. In addition we have a wonderful five-star hotel built with metal structures. An earthquake of eight degrees in the Richter Scale would not shake it. The same is true for other buildings built to withstand earthquakes. There is also a great theater.

So, we have the airport, the grand hotel, and the grand theater—all brand new. There are the sports installations and the hotels that are being built and that will remain from the Pan American Games. We are not going to stop here. We have to build scientific installations and many hotels, and this is to be done during the special period! We have to build biotechnological industrial centers.

I know that it will be easy for the construction workers to build 125 dairy farms in two years. I assure you that we will not permit a collapse of the excellent construction units we have created since the rectification process—organizations that in a matter of a few years have gained much prestige—nor will we let them run out of jobs.

I asked you jokingly if you wanted to go to Varadero. It was a joke. I am glad you want to stay here. Maybe some time ago you would have told me quickly: Yes, let us go right away. I am happy you want to stay here. I do not know if your assistance maybe needed elsewhere later, but generally speaking, we want these forces to stay here.

There will always be special periods. We will have hotels. If capitalists bring the capital and we are their partners, we can provide the stones, the sand, the iron, the construction equipment, and the labor force, and if they want 20 hotels every year, we will do it. We have all that Sierra Maestra land to develop, all the coastline, from Malverde to Pilon. Let the people of Granma Province not be upset if we build a few hotels past their province borders.

Beaches and beautiful places where the sea and the mountains meet stretch for kilometers. This is not seen in many places. We have small rivers that can be repressed to provide water, to satisfy the needs of touristic development, to boost the agriculture sector somewhat.

We have the possibility of having salt water and fresh water swimming pools for people who are afraid of cliffs. You can rest assured that this 200-km long marvelous costline will someday be a place that millions of people will want to visit. I have not mentioned what we have on the east side. We are not going to have any excess of construction forces here. We are going to run short. I assure you. I am not talking about the social aspect.

As soon as we get out of the special period we are going to work on the social aspect thoroughly again. This goes for the housing programs, too.

Now we are not going to build houses in Laguna Blanca or in the porcine center. We cannot start building wherever housing is needed. We have to finish building what we are already building, to finish that. We cannot begin new buildings without finishing the ones that have been initiated. That would be crazy. We have to finish the schools we are already building. We do not have to start working on new ones.

We will be producing 4 million tons of cement and 1 million tons of construction steel as soon as we have an opportunity. We had been investing in this until the special period came.

Yesterday, as I was looking at the speedway, I told Laso: Laso, were it not for this unfortunate special period we would have been able to do incredible things in this city. We had the workers' contingent organized, very highly productive contingents that work from 12 to 14 hours a day. We had never had a construction force so well organized and efficient in the country's history, not ever. Now we have this situation that has stopped us, now, when we were increasing cement production capability in the western region, when we were planni[illegible] increase it here, when we were t[illegible] build one ce[illegible]ctory in Holguin, and we are still building it. [illegible]ding it; we continue with the idea, and we will [illegible]t ourselves.

We decided: We are going to have our 300,000-ton cement production factory. We are working on it through this special period. We have not stopped that. The day will come when we will need the 4-million ton production.

Companeros and companeras: I have tried to explain to you difficult and bitter aspects of the situation. We are not ashamed of the situation. The situation pains but does not discourage us. The situation makes us superior because it represents a challenge that allows us to prove to ourselves what we are capable of achieving.

When the moment of truth comes—and worse conditions may come, yes, but it is indeed a feat that the country has managed to do what it is doing even under the present conditions. I can assure you that this has occurred at a time when so many things have crumbled; however, true courage never crumbles. True courage such as that displayed at Baragua so many years ago never crumbles. It remained permanent and perpetual even though that war was not won. This will be the case even though another war may come and if the Yankees were to intervene at the time of victory and turn us into a neo-colony. Those are the permanent values.

Permanent values do not crumble. The values created by this revolution, which is a continuation of the historic revolution that began in 1868, will never crumble, never. [applause]

I could believe that an earthquake could occur and that the island could fall into the Bartle Trench [as heard]; that is what it is called, is it not? Did you not say (Richter)? Now it is Bartle? What is it called? Professor, help me, please. [laughter] Oceanographers...seismologists, help me. You who know so much about this, help me. It is Bartle, right? Is that in Spanish or English? I can believe that an earthquake could occur and that the island could fall into the Bartle Trench.

I will never believe that our country could ever again live under the [word indistinct] of capitalism, or that our country could once again become a Yankee colony. [applause]

This is why I say once again today, from this historical and revolutionary capital of our fatherland, and in closing this assembly, which is an expression of the high patriotic, revolutionary, and socialist spirit of our people: Socialism or death. [Crowd answers: Or death!] Fatherland or death! We will win. [Crowd answers: We will win] [applause].

Raul Castro Attends Central Army Party Congress

FL2202165891 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] The twelfth party conference in the Central Army began its work in the Heroes of Giron Theatre at the Central Army's General Staff headquarters today. The morning session is presided over by Raul Castro, second secretary of the Central Committee and minister of defense of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

On the agenda approved for the meeting will be a review of the main report. Other matters on the agenda of the Central Army party members include readiness and preparations for defense, and discipline and fundamental duties for the special period in peacetime. The analysis, which is critical, self-critical, and open, is progressive and moves away from charts and figures in order to concentrate on how to better do the work.

The twelfth conference of the party in the Central Army continues today in the Heroes of Giron Theatre in the Central Army General Staff headquarters.

Closes Conference

FL2302035191 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Relay from Matanzas by Mario Garrido from the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] The 12th party conference in the Central Army has closed after an extensive seven-hour debate. The process prior to the holding of the fourth party congress within the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] is closed. This 12th party conference in the Central Army was headed by Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Central Committee and FAR minister.

In his closing statement, Raul said this was a magnificent and very democratic conference. A recently approved central report was extensively discussed at all levels. In his statement, he also referred to the need to continue perfecting the training of the reserves, the work to optimize the use and maintenance of techniques and armament, and defense work.

Engineer terrain work, readiness and preparations for defense, work with armaments and technique, and discipline were the subjects most discussed by the 200 delegates to the conference. Also attending this conference were alternate Politburo Member Julia Rizo Alvarez; the first secretaries of the five provinces that make up the territory under this command; and Division General Joaquin Quinta Solas, chief of the Central Army.

During the discussion of the report and in one of his statements, Gen. Raul Castro noted the importance of reforestation. He also requested a recognition of the Cienfuegos Naval Base and the 1410 military unit, which started the Manati Plan in the central territory.

He also referred to the importance of making compatible defense interests with economic development and noted the need to carry out systematic work nationwide regarding the readiness and preparation for defense movement.

Raul Castro's tour through Matanzas Province and his attendance at the 12th party conference in the Central Army has raised the motivation of its combatants who are preparing to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Central Army on 4 April.

Raul Castro Tours Matanzas Area Military Units

FL2302205391 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Network is Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Central Committee and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], has toured Matanzas Province in the company of Luis Alvarez de la Nuez, first secretary of the Central Committee of Matanzas; Julian Rizo Alvarez, secretary of the Central Committee; Division General Joaquin Quintas Solas, commander in chief of the Central Army; and Colonel Rolando Alfonso Borges, chief of the FAR Central Political Section.

Raul Castro visited some military units and listened to reports on combat readiness, the status of the theater of military operations, and the progress of the reforestation program. He also observed the self-sufficiency projects and the conditions of life of the soldiers. He visited plants that guarantee the Central Army's agricultural development. He showed interest in the different ideas in use to increase the production of meat and vegetables.

Later in the evening, Rodolfo Martinez, director of the Central Oil Prospecting and Extraction Enterprise, presented a report to Raul Castro on the development of Matanzas' fuel production plans. Raul Castro toured the facilities and was interested in the working and living conditions of the oil industry workers. The workers told Raul Castro of their dedication to maximize efficiency and commitment to develop the fuel production plans even under the most restrictive conditions.

Lezcano, Lemus Inaugurate Agricultural Camp

FL2202162391 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Today Jorge Lezcano, first secretary of the Central Committee of Havana City Province, and Victorino Lemus, first secretary of the Central Committee of Havana Province, inaugurated a camp in Alquizar named Pulido Cuatro. According to Jorge Lezcano, Pulido Cuatro is one of the best of this new type of camps. The residents have put forth a great effort in improving the camp's condition, still exceeding their goals in their daily farm tasks.

During this friendly midday meeting, Lezcano spoke to the mobilized workers from Plaza Municipality about the importance of the food program.

[Begin Lezcano recording] The food program the country is engaged in, particularly in Havana Province—the two Havana Provinces in sisterly agreement—has two main purposes of great importance: first, to satisfy the need to feed our population, and second, to show the food program's strategic character, through the use of revolutionary and socialist concepts, by demonstrating how socialism in our country can organize and develop agriculture, far removed from the mechanisms and vices of capitalism. [end recording]

In a television interview, Lezcano also talked about the Communist Party of Cuba assembly in the capital.

[Begin Lezcano recording] It [the assembly] concludes and begins a process. It sums up the results of the work carried out by the Communists and people of the capital, through grassroots organizations and the municipalities.

Many new and important matters were brought up in this assembly to link the work of the party and the working masses. The main report was published in the newspaper TRIBUNA and is discussed among very important sectors of the city, such as students, workers, and in scientific centers.

We have heard many views. Many commitments and decisions have been made. The assembly that is about to end has, for all practical purposes, already taken place because meetings in all work centers continue with discussions of the call for the fourth congress.

The people have expectations [words indistinct] communist that will be in session during the assembly in representation of the more than 100,000 party members in Havana City. The people are not going to be disappointed. There, the most [words indistinct] subjects will be dealt with [words indistinct] of this difficult and

complex situation the country and, particularly, our capital is experiencing. [end recording]

Malmierca Visits Tehran for Nonaligned Meeting

FL2502175591 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1725 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca is in Tehran, where he will meet with counterparts from Iran, Yugoslavia, and India, in keeping with agreements signed in Belgrade by Nonaligned Movement foreign ministers.

Namibian President Invited To Pay Official Visit

FL2502184091 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1725 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Namibian President Sam Nujoma will visit Cuba soon in response to an invitation extended by Cuban President Fidel Castro.

Namibia obtained its independence on 21 March 1990. Its current population totals 1,326,000 and its territory is 824,295 square meters.

Rodriguez Meets Guinean Minister; Signs Agreement

FL2202154591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, the vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with Bernardino Cardoso, the minister of cooperation for Guinea Bissau and a member of the PAIGC [African Party for the Independence of Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde] Politburo, who is visiting our country. Cardoso explained to the Cuban leader his country's efforts to overcome the current economic difficulties in the world and expressed thanks for Cuban cooperation in developing Guinea Bissau. Previously, Minister Bernardino Cardoso had signed a cooperation agreement with Cuba on scientific and technical aid in the public health, culture, and sports sectors.

PRC Envoy Visits Villa Clara, Bicycle Plant

FL2302041591 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Today Chen Juichang, PRC ambassador to Cuba, started a tour through Villa Clara Province to learn about the province's socioeconomic development.

According to his schedule, the PRC ambassador and his entourage will meet with provincial officials. Later, they will visit the [word indistinct] center in the Pavon region, on the northern coast of this territory.

Tomorrow, the PRC ambassador will conclude his tour through Villa Clara after talking with workers and officials from the bicycle factory in Caibarien and touring the road being built to the Santa Maria Key to develop tourism.

Roa Kouri on Human Rights Violations in Cyprus

FL2202153791 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] The continuing violation of human rights in the area of Cyprus that has been occupied by Turkey since 1974 was denounced by Cuba at the 47th session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva. In his speech on Issue II, Paragraph A, the issue of human rights in Cyprus, Raul Roa Kouri, the head of the Cuban delegation, expressed concern about this situation. He said that it is a direct consequence of the foreign invasion suffered by the small, nonaligned country. He also recalled that the Security Council and the Nonaligned Movement have rejected and declared null and void any attempt to turn the occupied region into a supposed Turkish republic in northern Cyprus.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Sandiford on Regional Economic Integration

FL2602001091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2144 GMT 25 Feb 91

[By Colin King]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 25, CANA—Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford headed Monday for Caribbean Community (Caricom) meetings in Trinidad, expressing conviction the region must quickly integrate or be bypassed by progress.

"We will be taking special stances. Our particular stance is that... The economies of Caricom countries must be integrated more fully and must be integrated at a faster rate if we are not to be left in the byways of economic and social growth and development," he told an airport news conference.

Sandiford is attending a one-day Caricom heads of government meeting Tuesday, and the first regional economic conference beginning Wednesday. The 10-member Barbados delegation includes Foreign Minister Maurice King, Central Bank Governor Dr. Kurleigh King, and a representative each of business and labour.

Tuesday's meeting of heads fulfils a decision to meet between the annual summits, while the economic conference is intended to review the region's economies and point out a direction for the future.

"I think that it is time.... we bypass the insular approaches or country approaches that we have tended to take and which have held us back for so many centuries, and to look at matters from a regional point," Sandiford said. He said a regional approach will enable the region and its member countries to both go forward to provide better living standards and "to stave off the kinds of threats to our economic stability and well being" posed by the international environment.

The Barbados prime minister, who heads a committee studying development of the regional security system, will make a progress report on the matter to the heads' meeting. No substantial discussion or "definitive" solutions are expected on the matter because the committee is not yet in a position to make "full-fledged recommendations," he said in response to a question.

On the question of Barbados' implementation of the Caricom Common External Tariff (CET), which was originally agreed by the heads for implementation on January 1, 1991, Sandiford said Barbados is ready and has been ready for some time. The outstanding requirements for Barbados are mainly "procedural," he said. To date only Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica have implemented the CET.

Comments on Guyana Electorate

FL2602002591 Bridgetown CANA in English
2149 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 25, CANA—Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford, leaving for Caribbean Community [Caricom] meetings in Trinidad and Tobago, said Monday he is satisfied efforts are being made in Guyana to ensure free and fair elections. A group in Trinidad has threatened to picket the meetings about the state of democracy in Guyana, and particularly the quality of elections in the Republic.

Sandiford and other regional leaders meet for a one-day summit in Trinidad Tuesday and will later join public and private sector and trade union representatives at the first regional economic conference beginning Wednesday.

Responding to a question about the likelihood the question of democracy in Guyana would be discussed, the Barbados prime minister said member states may raise "any issues that they wish to raise." "I am satisfied myself that in Guyana steps are being taken by the government in order to ensure that the elections are fair and free. The president of Guyana has given me and the other heads that assurance and I have no reason at all to doubt him in that particular regard.

"... I believe he has publicly taken steps to ensure that some of the administrative and other arangements necessary for free and fair elections would be put in place," Sandiford said. Guyanese political opposition groups have publicly called for a Caricom observer presence at elections in Guyana, due to be held by yearend.

"(On) the question of observers, I believe there are observers who have been invited to attend. How wide this is, who they are, that is a matter for the Government of Guyana," Sandiford said.

Workshop Examines Common Regional Currency

FL2602004591 Bridgetown CANA in English
2210 GMT 25 Feb 91

[By Mark Lee]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 25, CANA—There is consensus on the need for a common regional currency among leading Caribbean Community [Caricom] economists and financiers, but they differ on whether this should be merely to facilitate trade or to help instill fiscal discipline on governments.

"There was broad conclusion that it is desirable that the Caribbean is interested in an integrated economy and as a main thrust they ought to be moving in the direction of common currency arrangements," Sir Shridath Ramphal, chairman of the independent West Indian Commission said Monday after a weekend workshop here on the currency issue. "It was clear that there are ways that a common currency can be put in place," he added, noting that decisions can be taken by governments based on recommendations from the commission.

The commission's director of studies, Dr. Delisle Worrell, concurred that there was an urgent need for a common currency but emphasised the need for a dependable value since, he argued, the people of the region feared devaluations. "If the new currency is to be credible, it has to be backed by foreign currency," he remarked in response to suggestions that any initial arrangements would have to exclude heavily indebted Guyana and Jamaica, both of which have devalued their currencies several times as demand for foreign dollars outstripped supply.

"The Caribbean dollar must be readily convertible to U.S. dollars," Worrell the deputy governor of the Barbados Central Bank explained. Sources close to the weekend meeting which involved some Caribbean Central Bank governors and private sector economists told CANA that one major difference between participants was whether the Caribbean dollar should be primarily to facilitate regional trade or address the overall major problems faced by some economies.

Worrell who presented four alternative currency arrangements to the workshop, noted the potential difficulty faced by individual countries if having settled all trade transactions within Caricom, they had excess Caribbean dollars with no international convertibility.

"Is there a way to differentiate the regional settlements from international (transactions)? The problem with that is in so far as there are imbalances within the region, you would have to find a way (to deal with these)," he stated.

The options he presented the workshop are:

—to establish a common currency and convert on a particular date with the main problem of setting an exchange rate

—establish a new currency alongside the existing ones with possible problems of confidence in the new one
—establish a new currency but instead of a deadline for conversion, set "tough" conditions for eligibility to join the currency authority
—the least popular option of taking interim steps such as cementing the proposed regional stock exchange, improving free trade arrangements, and the complete freeing up of capital movement with the 13-member community.

The question of the political will of the governments to introduce a common currency has been questioned by some sceptics, but director of economic affairs at the London-based Commonwealth secretariat, Vishnu Persuad, feels the "strength of the rationale will propel the initiative."

"In the past there was great (economic) instability throughout the region and it was emphasised in the workshop the need for stability," he said. "In terms of macro-economic policy in the region, there's convergence on the need for good management. There's tremendous rationale to overcome whatever political difficulties there might be."

The West Indian Commission which was established to examine the aspirations of the people of the region and make recommendations to Caricom heads to chart the way forward, may suggest measures "to help take the region out of the trap of no implementing machinery," Ramphal said. He noted the many decisions for action reached in the past which remain inactive.

Haiti

Report on President Aristide News Conference

FL2202231091 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Report on a news conference by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide at the National Palace in Port-au-Prince on 22 February, by correspondent Clarence Renois—recorded]

[Text] Jean-Bertrand Aristide, president of the Republic, basically commented on three points at the news conference today. The first point was a request to youths born into wealthy families. He asked young people to meet more often. For example, he suggested that young people from the religious schools could go visit every now and then the youths from the poor quarters of Port-au-Prince to become aware of the misery existing in the country.

The second point mentioned by the president in this news conference was his answer to the poor people who were demanding more social justice in the country. He acknowledged that their calls were heard and received. He announced that an office, within the Ministry of Information, would open soon to collect the complaints of the poor population from the provinces and from the poor quarters of Port-au-Prince.

The third and final point addressed the composition of the ministerial cabinet. In view of the criticism provided by some people, the president sought to clarify the composition of the first ministerial cabinet. He also defined the different posts held by the prime minister, who is also the minister of interior and national defense. He cited the Constitution which prohibits a high-ranking employee from holding three posts. The prime minister is not holding three posts. He would not get paid for three posts. This is a brief summary of the news conference held by the president of the Republic.

Vincent Letter to Abraham Addresses Human Rights

FL2502220591 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Report on letter sent by Justice Minister Bayard Vincent to General Herard Abraham, commander in chief of the Haitian Armed Forces (FADH); dated 23 February]

[Text] We are beginning a new chapter. It is the chapter on respect for human rights. In his 23 February letter to General Abraham, the justice minister addressed the need for the police, from the commanders to the section chiefs, to respect what is detailed in the Constitution and the laws which guarantee a citizens' freedom and the respect of human rights.

The government's general policy declaration stated that the basic desire of the Haitian people was to establish a real state of order. The government stemming from the 16 December democratic elections has outlined the actions it wants to initiate to establish an institutional context for the strict respect of the legal and constitutional statutes and for the respect of the international conventions and pacts signed by Haiti which guarantee a citizen's right of freedom and the protection of human rights.

The justice minister says: Mr. Commander in Chief, while expecting that a police body is created in accordance with the Constitution, given that the police function will still be carried out by the FADH on occasion, I think it is time for me to recall that the police will have to ensure that they respect a number of statutes, a number of stipulations which are within the Constitution without losing anything in its efficacy in carrying out its role and its mission.

First, the police must never deviate from the provision of Article 25 of the Constitution which states that it is forbidden to use undue force or constraint in arresting or detaining someone. It is also forbidden to apply moral pressure or brutality during the questioning of a person. The police must not hit, manhandle, degrade, or in anyway tarnish a person's dignity by committing any manner of violent act. The police must not intervene in affairs which concern only the courts.

Concerning parking tickets related to traffic violations, the defendants will be heard before a simple police court which will decide on the validity of the ticket.

It is in this perspective that the justice minister has written to the commander in chief of the Haitian Armed Forces. He asks him to take all necessary measures and to give instructions to all agents of the police force from the commanders to the section chiefs to respect human rights in the country while expecting the police to function separately from the Army.

School Officials Dismissed; City Hall Shut Down

FL2502225591 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2100 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Report by unidentified correspondent from Petite Riviere—recorded]

[Text] Several city hall employees have been dismissed. A former mayor and a group of students from the communal school, Henri Christophe, led by members of the school administration, nailed shut the doors of city hall which is headed by a National Front for Change and Democracy magistrates' cartel. This happened after they threatened city hall employees on 19 February.

The designated justice of the peace of Petite Riviere of L'Artibonite, Raoul Hall, was obliged to issue an arrest warrant for three administrative members of the Henri Christophe School. Those members are Jacques Victor, school director; Jean-Claude Caillaume, bursar; and Jean-Claude Rosier, assistant head. The warrants were issued because they refused to return the school keys to the head of city hall after their dismissal. The warrants, dated 18 February, were written in agreement with Article 158 of the Penal Code. Commander Maxime Maxi failed, however, to execute them.

The administrative members of the school refused to accept the decisions of the mayor because, according to them, they would not leave the school administration before the end of the school year. The members sent demonstrators into the streets and closed the doors of the city hall building. It is to be noted that the communal school is under city hall management which pays the staff. Therefore, the school administrative members are employees of city hall.

Riviere Dantes, principle mayor, stated that he did not understand Commander Maxi's behavior when he refused to execute the arrest warrants from the justice of peace and allowed the administrative members to close down city hall, which is the people's property. According to the mayor, the members were dismissed because he could not justify the accounts of the school's funds or property.

It is to be noted that those school members were hired by former Mayor Huges Saget in October 1989. The new mayors are asking the authorities in charge for assistance in avoiding further conflict.

PANPRA Withdraws From ANDP, Plans Assembly

FL2202202491 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] The National Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti [PANPRA] is not part of the National Alliance for Democracy and Progress [ANDP] anymore, according to a press release dated 19 February.

The press release advises that the Central Directorate of PANPRA, which comprises the executive office, the national coordinating office, several parliament members, and the departmental and communal coordinators, met in extraordinary session. In this meeting it was discussed how the party has progressed since the Calicot Congress, and current and future circumstances were analyzed.

After discussion, the Central Directorate, the highest authority after the congress, had decided to remove PANPRA from ANDP. The Central Directorate then appointed the coordinating office to settle this withdrawal with the other partners of the Alliance [ANDP], in compliance with the conventions provided for this end.

The Central Directorate has also decided to hold a plenary assembly during the first semester of 1991, as well as an extraordinary congress before the end of 1992. They will take advantage of this opportunity to confirm the call made on 29 January by the national coordinating office to organize a socialist block in Parliament.

This press release was signed by PANPRA information secretary Pierre D. Eugene.

Correction on Aristide Speech at Inauguration

FL2102222091

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Aristide Stresses Legality," published in the 21 February Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 15:

Column one, paragraph two, first sentence reads: ...here today in your house [National Palace]. I include all the other sons of the country who are in the countryside and therefore cannot be here in their house, too. You will allow me to address them while addressing you. [preceding sentence in French] Perhaps, many of them are asking numerous questions about the role of the ministers, the prime minister, and the state employees. We cannot invent an answer. The answer is taken from the fundamental law [Constitution] of the country which must lead the country. (providing indistinct passage)

Trinidad and Tobago

Speaker Says Husayn 'Conveniently Using Islam'

FL2602015591 Bridgetown CANA in English 2319 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Feb 25, CANA—The speaker of the Trinidad and Tobago House of Representatives said Monday Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn was

conveniently using Islam to stir Muslim emotions in respect of the Gulf War. Nizam Mohammed visited Saudi Arabia last week to attend a three-day Islamic conference, called by the Saudi monarch. The discussions included Middle East issues, including Iraq's August 2, 1990 invasion and occupation of Kuwait which triggered the war.

Mohammed said some Muslims were reacting emotionally to Iraq's confrontation with U.S.-led multinational forces over Kuwait, but placed the blame squarely on Iraq. "(The war) would not have happened if Iraq had not gone into Kuwait and just chased the Kuwaitis out."

Mohammed said some "very amazing" things came out of the conference, including that Saddam Husayn "discourages religion in Iraq." He said the view was also put forward that Saddam's attempt to link the Palestinian issue to the present crisis was designed "to cloud his aggression." He said a conclusion of the conference was that Iraq's ruling Ba'th party had to be destroyed in the interest of Middle East stability.

Costa Rican President, Ministers on Agreements

PA2502163491 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2230 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon today said that Costa Rica's debt with Mexico, estimated at $35 million, will soon be paid off with a loan granted by the World Bank.

The president, who is in Mexico on an official visit that concludes tomorrow, said that debt payment and other economic issues will be negotiated at a meeting with Mexican Finance Secretary Pedro Aspe.

Mexican cooperation will favor Costa Rica's trade relations with the United States and Canada via Mexico and with South America via Mexico's relations with Colombia and Venezuela. [as received]

As for foreign policy, Calderon said, the Mexican Government has created the bases for the development of free trade—which is expected to materialize by the year 2000—throughout the entire continent.

Meanwhile, Costa Rica's Public Works Minister Guillermo Madriz said that an air transport agreement between the two countries will allow Costa Rica to establish an operational base in Mexico to expand its flights to that country and the United States. Madriz said that the Mexicana de Aviacion Company will open an office in San Jose, Costa Rica, to cover South American routes.

Mexico may promote the construction of new installations in Puerto Limon, on Costa Rica's Atlantic side, to increase international trade, especially coffee and banana exports and hydrocarbons imports, Madriz added.

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus pointed to the "broad spectrum" of political, economic, cultural, and social exchanges that were negotiated during the presidential visit.

The chief of diplomacy said that the agreements reached are in compliance with what was agreed upon at Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas State, where Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari met with his Central American counterparts in January.

Among the agreements that were approved that Calderon underscored most was the "Asymmetrical Treaty," which calls for trade exchange between the two countries in proportion to each country's degree of development, the foreign minister added.

As for the energy issue, Niehaus referred to the petroleum that Mexico supplies to Central America via the Pact of San Jose, which since 1980, has guaranteed crude to the region at preferential prices and financed projects based on each country's purchases.

In addition to the 50 cooperation projects presented by Costa Rica and approved by Mexico, there was the cooperation between businessmen and investors of both countries to promote Costa Rican stocks through the stock exchange.

Government Moves To Conserve Environment

PA2102003791 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Text] Mexico will exchange $4 million of its foreign debt for capital that the International Foundation for the Preservation of the Environment will devote toward preserving plant and animal species in Mexico that are considered unique. This very important measure is intended to improve the quality of the environment, which is necessary in several areas of the country, not just in Mexico City.

The Mexican Government has agreed to exchange foreign debt for investment in preserving the natural resources of our country. The International Foundation for the Preservation of the Environment will buy, at a 35 percent discount, $4 million of the foreign debt over a four-year period. This international organization based in Washington will exchange its debt bonds for Mexican pesos, which will be donated to finance ecological programs in different areas of the country.

The aforementioned agreement was signed by Finance Secretary Pedro Aspe Armella; Patricio Chirinos, secretary of Urban Development and Ecology; (Russell Metermiet), president of the international foundation; and Chiapas State Governor Patrocinio Gonzalez.

In Mexico, there exist different plant and animal species that are unique in the world, particularly in the Lacandon jungle region.

* Salinas Emphasizes Economic Accomplishments

91CA0067A Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 8 Jan 91 p 6

[Text of New Year's address to the nation by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari; place and date not given]

[Text] My fellow countrymen:

I am grateful to you for allowing me to share with you in your homes a few thoughts about what we have accomplished together and what we can achieve in the year that is now beginning.

Mexico is working hard. Our efforts are producing results. We are moving forward in unity, with peace among us, settling our differences in freedom.

We have resumed economic growth and we will respond in solidarity to the need for justice that all are demanding and that all deserve. Abroad, in the face of a world undergoing sweeping change, we are taking advantage of new opportunities and we are even seeking to

anticipate the changes that may affect us. We are a sovereign nation that is establishing its place in the world without preconceptions.

What have we achieved in previous months? What is in store for us this year? Our economy is healthier and on the move. This means that we are producing more than before, that the government is maintaining discipline in public spending and looking after its revenues, and that we have practically eliminated the budget deficit.

When the economy is stable, the efforts that we make translate into better living conditions. Thus, we expect that the economy will grow faster than the increase in population for the third straight year in 1991. Although some regions have grown more than others, this trend is already becoming widespread; more and more families will be feeling its benefits.

Behind us are the days when inflation in a single month was nearly what we now have in a year. This ought to encourage us. Yet, inflation is still too high, too high for what we aspire to. The country's housewives are right when they say that prices are rising and that it is hard to make a paycheck stretch two weeks.

What we have achieved, which is a great deal, requires yet additional effort. In 1991 we truly have an opportunity to defeat inflation. There are objective reasons: lower interest rates, a slower exchange rate slippage; in other words, lower production costs and greater incentives for job creation.

One of my fundamental concerns is that what each Mexican earns this year should do more for his family's well-being. Therefore, my fellow countrymen, we are going to wage an all-out battle this year to halve last year's inflation rate.

Mexico is preparing to become a great exporting country. Our industry has responded promptly and efficiently to the challenge of competition. We will continue to eliminate unnecessary regulations and red tape; we will also support with special dedication the small and household businesses that are job sources for so many Mexicans and the foundation for boosting our capacity so that we can compete in this manner.

Free Trade Agreement Will Not Be Negotiated Hastily

We seek reciprocity in our commercial opening to all nations. Our exports must grow so that investment and employment expand. This is how today's world works. Therefore, we will draw closer to our neighbors to the north and south and to the new international centers of finance, commerce, and technology. We, the United States of America, and Canada propose to establish a free-trade area. There is already, in fact, a very intense economic relationship, but under a Free Trade Agreement it will be able to grow in a more orderly and equitable fashion. This will not be a quick or hasty negotiation; we are going to make sure that the nation's interest takes precedence over any other consideration.

In a few days we will be receiving the presidents of the sister nations of Central America here in Mexico. With them we share a history, traditions, and a deep-seated friendship, which we want to prevail so that there can be harmony and development in the region. We will work together to make this possible. We will continue to join together our wills and specific actions. The voice of Latin American will be heard more firmly in the decade just beginning.

We must acknowledge that the world is going through difficult times, owing to the events in the Persian Gulf. A confrontation would no doubt affect all in some way. Therefore, we hope that a diplomatic settlement can be achieved but that what international law provides will always be respected.

Here in Mexico we are living in a environment of freedoms, a climate of dialogue in settling differences and moving forward together. Respect for pluralism demands, at the same time, respect for the law. Both are values that we Mexicans appreciate greatly. Therefore, we will strengthen our institutions that have brought calm to families, to the life of communities and towns for most of this century. There is much that we can improve, but it should not make us forget the many, very valuable things that we have. Looking after what we are and what we have achieved is what lends certainty to change. We are promoting respect for tolerance, enhancing the strict safeguarding of human rights, and seeking to meet society's most urgent demands in a timely fashion.

The government will respond more effectively to improve urban and rural life. The security of our families is the value that will guide our actions. We will be more scrupulous in exercising authority, more resolute in supporting the retired men and women who still have much to contribute to society, and more attentive to the needs of children and young people, our sons and daughters, because their hopes are our hopes.

Confidence in Mexico's Future

As I have already said on other occasions, the most difficult challenge is how to bring well-being to those who need it most. Solidarity has penetrated deeply into the consciousness of Mexicans. Through it we have gradually reversed the conditions of extreme poverty of our most vulnerable compatriots while always acknowledging and scrupulously respecting their dignity. Therefore, in 1991 we will bolster our efforts in every state of the republic so that there is more housing and electricity, more drinking water in working-class towns and colonias [urban communities], better schools and more education, better care in hospitals, healthier environmental conditions, cleaner air, and clearer rivers. Poverty is not inevitable among us; we are making headway in eliminating it.

My fellow countrymen:

We are changing as we intended to; we are showing through deeds that with unity and resolve there is no

obstacle that we cannot surmount. We have confidence in our future; we believe in the strength of our past, and day by day we are reviving with pride the splendor of our culture. In this we identify with the men and women, the adults and young people in all of the country's regions. We cherish the family; we want to preserve our traditions with joy, with the satisfaction of acknowledging each other as Mexicans.

This will be a year of hard work and many positive results, of greater unity and more answers to what you, my fellow countrymen, are demanding, of greater cordiality and respect among us all.

My family and I wish you peace, health, and tranquillity in your homes. Our wish is that together all Mexicans can make 1991 a year in which we take another step towards the fulfillment of your fondest desires at home, at school, in the community, and on the job.

May 1991 be a prosperous year for all and bless our country with abundance.

Thank you very much.

*** Salinas' Response to Nation's Demands Examined**

91CA0068 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 20, 27 Jan 91

[Jose Agustin Ortiz Pinchetti commentary]

[20 Jan p 23]

[Text] Meanwhile in Mexico...Why voice any more opinions on a development as complex, distant, and terrible as the "new battles in the desert"? As one Mexican put it: It was the devil who put oil in Mexico...and elsewhere in the world.

Last week we wrote that civilian society has responded poorly, in particular last year, to eight years of adversity and "crisis" and to the government's tough and unpopular measures. It would be worthwhile to reflect on how the current government has reacted to the prolonging of hard times.

If we compare how President Salinas stood when he took office to how he how stood when he delivered his televised New Year's message, we must acknowledge that he is a much stronger president than we had supposed. As of today there is no power in the country capable of challenging the central government, which seems to have grown stronger and tougher.

Let us review the evidence. The president has had laws and decrees passed, many of them overtly harmful to the people, such as the new tax legislation and the very structure of the expenditures program, over the protest not only of the opposition (which stands to reason) but also of powerful factions of PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] legislators and many high-level public officials. The party, eager for change, has had to postpone it and bend to the president's will. Many prominent party members are noticing how the president is beginning to create the nucleus of his own party in order to dismantle the old one that brought him to power. The leaders and the political class now emerging can do nothing to block it, at least for now.

The Executive Branch is dominating the other factors of power. We know of no factions in the army that might veto his decisions. And the Church has yielded to his political line, in keeping with a long-standing court tradition, but not without demanding privileges. Mexican businessmen and their organizations have failed to organize a response to defend their legitimate interests against an extreme opening of the economy.

The president has managed to divide the opposition and to block a democratic front that would guarantee effective suffrage and shatter his hegemony. The PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution], which is regarded as an enemy because of its grassroots base and because it comes from within the system itself, has been isolated in a specific area. It has been denied its legitimate victories and deprived of sources of support. The National Action Party (PAN) has convinced itself that an alliance with the government will be more fruitful than the daring venture of defending the vote at all costs. As Mario Vargas Llosa charged, the president has not only been able to co-opt leading intellectuals but he also controls and dominates the media with increasing toughness. The recent attacks on independent journalists and the cutback in opinion-piece spots on radio have not prompted major criticism from those who were so sure of Mr. Salinas' democratic intentions.

The growth of presidential power can be gauged even in square meters. Do you remember what the Los Pinos residence looked like before De la Madrid arrived? It has grown at the expense of Chapultepec Park and the surrounding streets and avenues, becoming an overly guarded sacred place.

It seems that Mr. Salinas is prepared to wholly restore the power of the "tlatoani" [ruler of a pre-Cortesian central Mexican Aztec region or city state] and that the hopes that the institution of the presidency would lose its monarchical features do not match his intentions. The huge program of social assistance called Pronasol [National Solidarity Program] is being portrayed to the people as a gratuity to compensate for their sacrifices, a gratuity that the president is personally giving them. Who can speak of modern politics?

The impression is that presidential power has responded well to the provocations of these difficult times and that among the major Latin American countries Mexico is the one that is the most firmly governed. In many people this is linked to the idea of inevitability. The feeling of powerlessness, fueled expressly and subliminally by the mass media and by government rhetoric, represents a fatalistic certainty that no matter what is done, the

pillars of the system cannot be removed. This emasculating emotion has become the government's sole psychological base of support in our midst, now that its legitimacy has waned. Many of us critical and irate journalists are involuntarily contributing to this. A few thoughts on the issue would be worthwhile; we will offer some later on.

Above and beyond the Executive Branch's apparent success in meeting the challenges of moderate adversity, we should ask ourselves whether the current government perceives how intense the collective demands will be further down the line. Although the government can halt the political development that seemed obvious in late 1987 and even reverse it, it cannot stem the historic tide. Such an attempt at omnipotence would be worthy of Porfirio Diaz.

What is civilian society demanding? Even if we assume that Mr. Carlos Salinas won the presidential election, we have to accept that at least 60 percent of the population was opposed to his becoming president. The fact is that Carlos Salinas was an unknown politician to the overwhelming majority of Mexicans; it was not something "personal." He was simply identified with the previous government; hence, he was rejected. The massive vote against PRI was a clear sign that a rectification was needed. In other words, [there was a need] to moderate, to rectify the basic policies pursued between 1982 and 1988. Salinas seemed to grasp this fully in his inaugural address. He acknowledged that he was assuming the presidency amid collective hopes and the price of cumulative sacrifice. He proposed three fundamental accords linked to the express needs of the people during the election campaign and its chilling outcome: the expansion of democratic life, given that the times through which Mexico was living were essentially political; an accord for economic recovery and to promote the capacity to consume and save; and an accord for the productive enhancement of the people's well-being: reembracing the fundamental aim of the Mexican Revolution, social justice, and regaining the capacity to become indignant over poverty and inequality, which still "extend their shadow over various parts of the country."

The president seemed to understand fully that he could not follow De la Madrid's political line. In light of the election irregularities, he proposed giving birth to a new citizenry with a new political culture, improving electoral procedures, updating the party system, and above all (most urgently), guaranteeing the transparency of elections. In contrast to his predecessor's extremely conservative policy, he agreed that the priority would be growth, not repayment of the foreign debt. He realized that everyone understood that we could not have lasting growth again if we kept on transferring five percent of national output overseas every year, as we had been up to 1988-89. Like all his fellow countrymen, he realized that the main function of government has to do with the security and well-being of the citizens, that the determination to grow would have to express itself along the road to justice and fairness.

All indications are that President Salinas clearly understood the main demands of the people of Mexico. But has he met them as we all hoped he would? I am afraid not.

[27 Jan p 23]

Once again, Sunday readers, I will be having a post-breakfast chat with you. Let impassioned commentators and readers discuss the Persian Gulf on other pages. Last week we were talking about our president. With all due respect you and I agreed that Mr. Salinas is trying to strengthen the power of the presidency, which is already rife with licit, illicit, legal, and consuetudinary powers, and we were concerned to know why. No matter how much of a "day laborer" you might be, you must agree that President Salvador Allende made the extremely serious mistake of trying to implement structural change in Chile (the quick path to socialism) without having more than 38 percent of the voters on his side. President Salinas got the smallest percentage of the vote in the post-revolutionary period. A conservative estimate is that at least 60 percent of the electorate voted against him. We commented last Sunday that the reason was not so much Mr. Salinas' personality as a forceful rejection of the policies pursued by his predecessor, of whom Carlos Salinas was, of course, an extremely important colleague. You and I also listed the president's proposals in his inaugural address, which reflected a clear awareness of the voters' reaction and of the need for a change in the policies pursued until 1988.

I do not think that Mr. Salinas' term of office is going to end abruptly, as Mr. Allende's did (and please do not think that I am justifying Santiago's bloodthirsty centurions), but there can be no doubt that he would be somewhat overbold to attempt a fundamental change in the country's historic agenda without the (at least tacit) consent of the majority. Without it, any government program would face heavy resistance and, although it might work at first, would wind up falling apart.

Salinas proposed three fundamental changes: in politics, to move resolutely on towards democracy, beginning with respect for the vote; in the economy, to resume growth, encourage the forces of production, and reduce foreign debt payments; and in society, strike a more equitable balance in the distribution of burdens and benefits.

Two years later, we realize that the president's real purpose, which he has indeed pursued with great consistency, is totally different from his stated intentions, as if the latter were merely a rhetorical facade to calm and convince the country that there would be rectification, which he really did not want.

As for democracy, we have returned since 1989 to what Juan Jose Hinojosa called with dreadful irony "democratic normalcy." Just consider the PRI fixes in which it ultimately crushed its opponents in Tabasco, Jalisco, Guanajuato, Chihuahua, Nayarit, and Quintana Roo. The "clean sweep" policy has returned in all of these

episodes. Then comes the worst thing of all. When the opposition manages to put up resistance thanks to its spontaneous growth or its organization, violent and at times bloody incidents ensue: Michoacan, Hidalgo, Puebla, Oaxaca, Sinaloa, and Guerrero. Abstentionism is promoted; credentials are withdrawn; the voter rolls are altered; the expectation of a political struggle is raised so that the public's spirit can be crushed afterwards. Thanks to control over the media, a sense of inevitability is created in most people, who then do not bother to vote because they realize that they will not be able to change their living conditions through elections. The opposition's successes in Baja California and in some major mayoral elections only confirm, as contrasting exceptions, this panorama of political intolerance.

The country is being pushed into an experiment in opening up its economy that is being conducted inexplicably fast and could have devastating consequences for Mexican businessmen, the country's industrial plant, and its workers. In spite of what official spokesmen and the doctored numbers of government agencies may say, the country is not growing. Imports have risen, and exports of nonpetroleum goods cannot match them. Foreign-debt payments still account for half of budget expenditures. Inflation is down but not out. The president's claim that growth has resumed is, as Jorge Alcocer says, "the identical pronouncement that has been repeated from 1983 to date." If you doubt the statistics, consider your own daily life. Have your job prospects improved? Is your business growing? Do you really have a chance to sell goods or services overseas? Are the sacrifices that the masses have endured since 1983 being compensated?

Socially speaking, things are worse. Spending on public education (6.4 percent of the budget) is as low as it ever was in the Porfirian era. Spending on health and welfare continues to decline (0.9 percent). But you do not have to visit the INEGI [National Institute of Statistics, Geography, and Informatics] to discover that Social Security clinics, hospitals, schools, roads, public universities, and government services are getting worse and worse and that you are having to pay more and more taxes. If you are a wage-earner, you would need a 100 percent raise to regain the purchasing power you had in 1982.

Most seriously, the government seems to have no view of history. In other words, there is no national agenda. It would seem that its goal is to make it to 1994 with enough power to impose the same economic policies on its successor: a new model of economic development based on the idea that Mexico can become a competitive player in international trade and finance. The assumption is that there is a universal trend towards integration and that we must inevitably adapt to it. Trade liberalization, the promotion of private investment (by the large groups in particular), and the State's declining capacity to reduce inequalities are part of this structural change. The claim is that this is not only the best but the only choice.

Although this approach has been called liberal, it is essentially conservative because it seeks not to liberate the market forces but instead to strengthen the most powerful groups. Furthermore, and above all, because in order to achieve its purposes it passes the huge cost of the entire experiment on to the have-nots, to insure that they do not challenge political control, this halts the spontaneous process of participation. The political facet of the entire program is authoritarianism. The social facet is the consolidation both of a homegrown elite consisting of technocrats who until now have shown (as Roger Bartra says) a high degree of ineptitude and of great money lords who are throttling the growth of small and medium-size business. You know this; there is nothing original about it. It is the same thing that was done in the latter part of Porfirio Diaz' reign. Above all, it cannot be portrayed as a collective agenda, that is to say, as a general concept of a nation that would be attractive to the majority of Mexicans. Recent polls reflect the grassroots view that what the government is proposing is annexation to the United States. This is, of course, a fantasy, but I ask you: What sort of country can be built on the basis of the models, ambitions, and agendas of the ruling group?

El Salvador

Five U.S. Military Advisers Killed in Accident

PA2502181591 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1735 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Report by David Marciano Rivas]

[Text] We have some last minute news that has been duly confirmed. At least five U.S. military advisers died this morning when the helicopter they were traveling in crashed in the Ilopango Lake area east of San Salvador. We repeat, at least five U.S. military advisers died this morning when the UH-1H helicopter they were traveling in crashed in the Ilopango Lake area. The reports state that the five people, all U.S. citizens, were on their way to Palmerola Military Base in Honduras. The accident occurred at approximately 0840 [1440 GMT] and is now being confirmed by Honduran military sources. Five U.S. soldiers reportedly died in this accident that occurred at 0840 in the Ilopango Lake area. The Honduran authorities at the Palmerola Military Base have confirmed that the accident occurred at 0840. The report adds that the UH-1H helicopter in which the U.S. soldiers were traveling crashed into Ilopango Lake. We have tried to get the control tower at the air force base to confirm this report; they have refused, however, to give us any information.

We repeat, the information on the accident in which five U.S. military advisers were reportedly killed has been confirmed by high-ranking Honduran military sources. We are waiting for more information on this accident. According to early reports, five U.S. soldiers were killed.

FMLN Reportedly Willing To Support Elections

PA2502190691 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanith to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] is willing to support the March elections but not to permit any manipulation in areas under guerrilla control.

An FMLN communique circulated in San Salvador this morning reiterated the guerrilla position that it will not permit the entry of any polling boxes in territories under its political and military control.

The FMLN feels that conditions for clean and honest elections do not exist because of pressures and threats by the Armed Forces and Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance].

In its communique, the FMLN emphasized that the Army is manipulating the electoral process by exerting pressure on the people to vote for Arena.

FMLN's Villalobos on 10 March Elections

PA2502200491 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0300 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Report on "excerpts" from interview with Commander Joaquin Villalobos, member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) General Command; date and place of interview not given; recorded passages in quotation marks]

[Text] Asked about what the FMLN thinks about an electoral process conducted at the same time that the negotiations between the government and the FMLN are being held, Commander Villalobos had the following to say.

[Villalobos] "The elections to be held are not the result of negotiations and we do not recognize them as legitimate at all, just as we did not recognize the earlier elections. In our opinion, nothing has changed. The most recent events that took place in the country—the massacre of 15 peasants and the destruction of DIARIO LATINO—clearly reflect the state of the freedom of expression in El Salvador and the lack of true democracy. There are no conditions for the people to truly express what they think and want.

"In these elections, a democratic and revolutionary alternative does not have sufficient room [seven-second break in transmission]. We have not expressed any support. Not a single point has been properly touched upon in the negotiations. We have not mixed the negotiations with the elections. We tried, but of course the government was willing to give only crumbs. We were not willing to accept these crumbs in exchange for substantial yields in the negotiation. The government was attempting to win an electoral victory, but we were not willing to bless the elections for them by making them part of the negotiations because the government was not truly willing to make substantial changes to make the elections of a different kind, elections that could lead to peace. The government rather preferred to hold elections in wartime for war. In view of this situation, maybe this would be a preliminary move. We are not supporting or recognizing these elections as legitimate. In addition, we do recognize the opposition parties' efforts under these adverse conditions. We know it is not easy to participate in the elections under these conditions.

"Precisely, the two most recent actions have dealt two key blows to the truly democratic elections. If a person participates in the elections, it is because the person is an activist and will make propaganda using the media. If 15 people are killed in an outskirts barrio at the time the campaign is held, this is a clear sign that the a death sentence has been passed on the activism of the democratic forces. If at the same time or shortly thereafter a newspaper is destroyed that gave space to the democratic forces—I mean all of the forces, even the rightist forces, in which even a government delegate to the talks used to write and which included interviews with Armed Forces

members—then this is a clear sign that there is no space for propaganda in the media or activism because there is a death sentence hanging on both of them. In addition to this, there are remarks like those made by spokesmen of the Planning Ministry or Francisco Guerrero, who made clear threats that were later backed by the presidential ministry's information department, Arena [National Republican Alliance] and various publications such as ARENILLA and all that. We already know the meaning of threats against humanitarian organizations, religious personalities, and opposition leaders. We know that in this country, to point to someone is equivalent to telling him: We will kill you. We think the government should think it over bacause such a policy will lead nowhere. It is impossible to return to the barbaric actions of the 1980's. This is not the proper way to solve the conflict. This situation must be put to an end in the country.

"As I said, we recognize that the opposition is at a great disadvantage, that the results will be difficult, and that the people are very skeptical. After so many elections, the people do not believe the elections can work for peace. Naturally, we do not want to contradict the effort the parties are making under these conditions. We will talk with them so they can decide what they will do regarding these conditions. We will present our arguments to them. I suppose they will present their stances and viewpoints to us. Based on this, we will decide what our specific actions will be regrading the elections."

The 10 March elections will be held in a country that has been at war for the past 10 years. Some areas of the country have been under the permanent control of the FMLN for some time and Commander Joaquin Villalobos explains why elections will not be held in those areas.

[Villalobos] "There are certain areas that have been under our control for many years. There are areas where elections have never been held and other areas where elections have been held, but never in the proper manner. This is one of the issues being discussed at the negotiating table. Like the cease-fire, this is one of the sensitive points being discussed at the negotiating table. In other words, when we discuss the cease-fire issue, we also discuss things like the loss of the government's political, legal, and administrative authority over a large area of the country. These are matters that affect the electoral process.

"There is also another situation in other parts of the country. Part of the country is experiencing a different situation. In those areas there is a political life. You [not further specified] and the political parties make a special effort to maintain certain spaces. We do not view this as being bad. We accept it. Regarding your question on our position and the upcoming elections, however, I will say that we would decide what we are going to do after we talk with the other political parties. We do not know what is going to happen. We do not reject the idea that a worse situation could develop, a situation in which other political positions could be adopted. For the time being, we will not be the ones giving opinions on the elections. We do not believe in these elections, these are not valid elections, and we will not participate in these elections. We simply have our idea of unity with greater strength and we will guide ourselves with this. We are not directly participating in these (?elections)."

In expressing his views regarding the current electoral process during which serious incidents have occurred throughout the country, Commander Joaquin Villalobos talked about the how the FMLN will behave on 10 March.

[Villalobos] "Because of a situation that has developed, our behavior will depend on our talks with the opposition parties. The Arena government has attempted—just as it has attempted to do with the negotiations—to take political advantage of the situation. They are trying to make it look as though we are going to allow for the elections in an effort to help the government. We would never do such a foolish thing. It is just like them. They say that progress is being made in the negotiations, yet they are the ones creating the standstill. We would never help the Arena government because it is the same government that destroys a pluralist newspaper and massacres peasants. We will do nothing to help the Arena government. Whatever we do, we will do for the other parties, for those forces that are drowning yet willing to participate in the elections under adverse conditions. How will we behave? That will be decided at that time. I can say that the situation is different this time. Groups with different views are participating in these elections. We will not bet on results. Guessing results is like playing the lottery.

"There are candidates who refuse to disclose their name because they are afraid of getting killed by members of the guard or civil defense. This is proof that these will not be legitimate elections. If the opposition wins a majority of votes, this will be proof of the people's courage in the face of adversity. If they do not vote, it will be proof of the level of fear in which the people live. This is why the results do not express the existence of a democratic situation. Perhaps we will be tolerant and not interfere; however, that will be decided after we ask the parties their views regarding the conditions under which the elections are going to be held. We want to know what it is they think before we adopt our position. We do not wish to make a unilateral decision. In the past we would have acted quite differently. In the past we made our own decisions regarding the elections. This is not the case today.

"Another matter I would like to talk about is the interpretation that could be given to the results of the elections. First, no matter who wins, we do not believe that these are legitimate elections. These elections are not the result of a negotiation. This is why there will be no international observers. This is why there is no UN delegation present. An OAS delegation will be present to observe the elections; however, it is a limited representation. This delegation is not here as a result of the

negotiations. They will observe the elections because it is one of the diplomatic and political duties of the OAS. There would have been a difference had this delegation been present as a result of the negotiations. It would mean the same as the FMLN calling a general truce for the elections. That has not happened. Whatever we do will be limited and will not mean that we approve of the elections.

"If Arena wins the elections the negotiations could experience a setback. If the oppposistion wins, the negotiations could improve. Regarding time, well, if Arena wins it would not mean that the situation will get worse. No. It would only mean that it will take us more time to convince them that a negotiation is their only option. It would take them a bit longer to realize that the military option and repression are not the ways to solve the country's problem. Even though the triumph of the opposition would help the negotiations, it is quite improbable that it will happen. We are not subjecting the negotiations to an electoral raffle held amid the people's fear, amid the fear of the candidates and the media. It is obvious that those elections are not democratic. We do not support them and we do not believe in them.

"Those who believe that we are participating in the elections through this or that party are mistaken. The day we go into politics we will do it under our own name, under our acronymn and name, the FMLN. That is the name the people have heard throughout the past years. We would also seek to go into politics by uniting our forces to other forces with similar beliefs. We would not seek to divide the opposition."

Honduras

Consul Denies Registering, Flagging Iraqi Ships

PA2602004091 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Feb 91 p 8

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Daniel Regalado Hernandez, the Honduran consul in Singapore, denied yesterday that he had authorized Iraqi ships to sail in the Persian Gulf under the Honduran flag, as Roberto "El Zarco" Callejas had charged here.

Regalado said the consulate, as opposed to others, "has not monopolized the registration of ships." He called on "El Zarco" Callejas to prove his statements; otherwise, "he will remain what he has always been: a charlatan before the people's eyes."

Regalado Hernandez sent a facsimile to lawyer Arturo Echenique Santos, who was asked to make a public statement clarifying the situation. TIEMPO will now transcribe this statement in its entirety:

Dear and always remembered friend:

I am contacting you on this occasion with the purpose of asking you to tell Rodrigo Wong Arevalo, director of the "Trailblazing" ["Abriendo Brecha"] television program, to make the following clarifications:

To my surprise, I received a telephone call today from a friend, who informed me that the infamous Roberto Callejas, Honduran consul in Miami, appeared in the "Trailblazing" television program, which is conducted by Wong Arevalo. Callejas said I should be removed from my post because I had registered Iraqi ships under the Honduran flag and had charged huge sums of money for it, thereby violating UN Security Council Resolution No. 661. In this regard, I want to make the following clarifications:

1. I have never registered an Iraqi ship under the Honduran flag. This can easily be verified at the Honduran Merchant Marine Office or by consulting Renee Elizabeth Gutierrez, whose telephone number is 341617. Gutierrez is the person with whom I work in registration-related matters.

2. This consulate, as opposed to others, has not monopolized the registration of ships. Five local companies involved in these activities are currently operating in Singapore.

3. This consulate was authorized by the Merchant Marine Office, via an official telex dated 4 December 1990, to issue a provisional certificate of registration to the Iraqi vessel Al-Bahar al-Arabi, which is now called "Sea Bank." I can easily prove that on that date I was in Honduras and, as I later found out, that the registration was made through the Marden Marine Management Pte. Limited. According to that company, the documents were directly faxed to the Merchant Marine Office. The details of the registration were explained to Roberto Ramos Bustos, director of consular matters, via telex.

I would appreciate very much if you could publish the aforementioned explanations for the Honduran people. I publicly challenge Callejas to prove his statements, otherwise, he will prove that he is what he has always been: a humbug in the eyes of the people.

In Asia I learned the virtue of patience, and I shall wait for the expiration of the immunity that Mr. Callejas currently enjoys, resorting to the proper courts, to determine his responsibility. How can we make Callejas realize that he hurts others everytime he opens his mouth?

How can we make him realize that his false, reckless, and ill-intended accusations not only harm the people's honor, but also the country's image?

Arturo, let the Honduran people know that I very much dislike having to reply to people who have zero credibility; unfortunately, this case warrants a reply.

I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you soon, because I very much miss the fatherland and the company of very good friends such as yourself.

Fraternally yours,

[Signed] Daniel Regalado Hernadez

Nicaragua

FSLN Leader Tefel on Party's Reorganization

PA2602014591 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Interview with Reinaldo Antonio Tefel, member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) and vice president of the Legislative Assembly, by an unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tefel] The FSLN continues to be the country's main party. In fact it is the only party having rank and file organizations throughout the country. Of course, the electoral defeat was a trauma that affected the majority of the Sandinist people. In that defeat, however, we showed the real, effective and peaceful nature of the Sandinist revolution. For the first time in Nicaragua's history, there was a transfer of power through elections.

The elections were followed—as Christians would say—by an examination of conscience within the FSLN to determine the causes for that defeat; how we must act in face of the new situation; what the future has ahead for Sandinism in Nicaragua; how Sandinism should be reorganized in order to face problems during the 90's; what are the great changes taking place in the world and how they affect Nicaragua and the Third World. We are evaluating all those things.

Specifically, the FSLN congress will take place in July. That congress, however, has already begun, and that is one of the innovations of the democratic changes taking place within Sandinism. The congress has already begun at the rank and file level, because from the rank and file up the situation is being evaluated. There are discussions, and the draft documents will be discussed. One of those documents is the party's statutes.

[Reporter] Some people believe that the FSLN National Directorate should be removed. Others believe it should be changed, and that there should be new elections within the FSLN. What is your opinion?

[Tefel] I believe that there are two mistaken tendencies. One calls for the removal of the current National Directorate members, and the other believes that the current directors should remain forever for historical value. I believe that neither group has analyzed the situation and the new nature that the party must project internally and externally.

If we are reorganizing the Nicaraguan people's democratic party—the FSLN—we must have a National Directorate in accordance with that new structure. Therefore, I believe that there should be a broad National Directorate with the participation of all the departmental secretaries to accomplish a territorial integration, and with some 20 members elected directly by the congress.

I believe that there should be a symbiosis between democracy and unity, as they are both very important. How can we obtain unity and historical continuity? If the seven current members of the National Directorate were elected from among the 20 members to be elected directly by the congress. In that manner, we would have the accumulated experience of those seven leaders who are responsible—collectively, of course—for both the good actions and the mistakes of Sandinism while we were in power. Some might say that 35 is too many. In that case, the National Directorate could meet once a month, for one whole day, or two days, while a permanent seven-member commission could meet once a week, or if necessary, every day. The permanent commission, in order to reflect democracy and unity, should be made up of three or four of the current members of the National Directorate, and three or four new members.

[Reporter] How do you see UNO [National Opposition Union]? UNO is the alliance that won the elections; however, some internal divisions can be seen. One year after closely supervised elections, and the FSLN's recognition of UNO's victory, what is your political opinion?

[Tefel] I believe that UNO is the most ephemeral political alliance that has ever existed in Nicaragua and possibly in Latin America. The alliance did not last very long. It became divided almost immediately, and internal divisions are increasingly becoming worse. In addition, there are not only two blocs, but there is a tendency to unite similar parties: Conservatives, Liberals, Social Christians. Therefore, it is difficult to maintain a permanent unity of the 14 political parties, fractions, factions and psuedo-parties that won in the past elections.

[Reporter] In other words, in order to stay in power the current government leaders will have to reach constant agreements or accords with the various sectors, including the FSLN and the so-called radical sectors in order to be moderately successful?

[Tefel] That is part of the game called democracy. Those are the rules of the game of democracy and national agreement. Neither democracy nor national agreement can be synthesized in one single action. They must be put into effect every day and at all times. A government without a wide organized social basis—although the president still enjoys some degree of popularity—must be in constant talks with the party that theorically represents the minority but in fact represents the majority, which is the FSLN, and with all the other parties, factions, and psuedo-parties.

Sandinist Leader Borge Criticizes Government

PA2602040891 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] During a ceremony held yesterday in Niquinohomo to commemorate the 57th anniversary of the murder of General Augusto Cesar Sandino, Sandinist leader Tomas Borge Martinez criticized the Violeta

Chamorro government and claimed that it was responsible for the social tensions prevailing in the country.

Borge said that government officials engage in negotiating and not in governing, and this leads to the social discontent that is worsening the overall crisis in Nicaragua. Borge told some 2,000 Sandinists meeting in the Niquinohomo Plaza that they must overcome the destabilization and the subversive actions through the Socioeconomic Agreement signed last October.

Borge said that the agreement should not ignore the workers while granting privileges to the entrepreneurs. In addition, he pointed out that the Sandinist National Liberation Front is not against private enterprise, which should operate according to national interests. Private enterprise should also further the country's development.

In the speech, Borge condemned the recent murder of Enrique Bermudez saying: We condemn his murder, even though there were just demands against him. We, the Sandinists, do not shoot people in the back. Revenge is probably the responsibility of the extreme right and its spiritual advisers.

Panama

Endara on Safe-Conduct to Rodolfo Chiari, Others

PA2302191591 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Recorded passages in quotation marks]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara said today that the government decided to grant a safe-conduct to former Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari because the crimes perpetrated during his tenure were of a political nature.

[Endara] "Mr. Chiari's case involves complying with an international convention that Panama signed. Panama is compelled to respect the diplomatic asylum given to those accused of political crimes. When Chiari was arrested, we thought that there were criminal charges or evidence against him, or that he was guilty of common criminal actions.

"In recent days, better yet, in recent weeks we patiently, carefully, and objectively reviewed his case. We realized that Mr. Chiari's files only included political crimes, crimes—let it be clearly understood—that are punishable by Panamanian laws, however, political crimes, nevertheless."

President Endara said that other civilians and military officers who sought asylum at different diplomatic missions in the country are accused of common crimes like homicide and embezzlement; therefore, they are not in Chiari de Leon's situation.

[Endara] "I am disappointed, and I am angry about yesterday's events.

[Reporter] "Nevertheless, some reports link Rodolfo Popito Chiari's name with yours as members of a bank's directorate board.

[Endara] "Oh, no. Do not tell me you really want to talk about that again? That is a big—an incredibly big—lie. That is pure slander. Please do not talk to me about that any more."

The president was also asked if Law No. 3 might favor former Democratic Revolutionary Party Legislator Rigoberto Paredes, who is currently being detained in El Renacer Jail.

[Endara] "I would be very angry if Rigoberto Paredes were released. I would be very angry. I would ask the judge to judiciously use that law. If it is used for Rigoberto Paredes, then the law must be immediately abolished. I am sure that if this is the case, the Legislative Assembly would be willing to abolish it, and I would be willing to sign it immediately after the Legislative Assembly approves the abolition."

MLAA Draft Treaty With UK Detailed

PA2602032591 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 24 Feb 91 p 12A

[Text] The Panamanian Government is negotiating a new mutual legal assistance agreement [MLAA] with the British Government. According to diplomatic sources, this treaty is more "viable" than the one proposed by the U.S. Government.

EL PANAMA AMERICA has learned that a draft of the treaty was approved first by Panamanian bank representatives, who believe that this treaty would not be harmful to the banking system.

The MLAA proposed by the United Kingdom is aimed at intensifying mutual cooperation in the struggle against drug trafficking only.

The British MLAA does not call for investigating activities that are not viewed as crimes in our country. The negotiations for a MLAA with the United States, however, call for this kind of investigation, and this is one of the points of disagreement which is preventing the negotiations from making progress.

The British MLAA does not propose investigating fiscal crimes. It covers only the control of drug trafficking and the laundering of money derived from this activity.

According to this treaty, legal assitance could be refused if the party being asked for assistance decides that satisfying the request would seriously damage its sovereignty, security, or national interests, or that it deals with a crime for which the person accused has already been punished or exonerated.

The following is the text of a draft MLAA provided to EL PANAMA AMERICA by a diplomatic source:

Agreement (Draft)

Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Panama with regard to mutual assistance in fighting drug trafficking.

The British Government and the Government of Panama,

In line with their decision to intensify their cooperation in the struggle against drug trafficking,

Have decided the following:

Article 1, The Framework for Implementation

(1) In line with this agreement, the two parties must provide each other assistance with regard to investigations and actions related to drug trafficking activities. This assistance includes efforts to find and seize drugs, as well as the equipment used in drug trafficking activities.

(2) This agreement does not cancel any obligation that may exist between the parties as a result of other treaties or agreements, and it does not prevent the parties, or their institutions charged with implementing local laws, from providing each other assistance agreed upon as a result of other treaties or accords.

Article 2, Definitions

For the purposes of this agreement:

(a) "Confiscation" means any measure resulting in the depriving of assets;

(b) "Instruments of drug trafficking" means any asset that is used or tried to be used in connection with drug trafficking.

(c) Proceedings are opened:

(i) In the United Kingdom when information has been presented before a municipal judge, or when a person is accused of a crime, or when a complaint has been lodged, or when a suit authorization [autorizacion de demanda] has been granted;

(ii) in the Republic of Panama when

.....

.....[dotted space as published]

(d) "The product" means any asset obtained or received by any person directly or indirectly through drug trafficking or the value of such assets;

(e) Assets include money and all kinds of movable or unmovable and tangible and intangible assets;

(f) "Drug trafficking" means any drug trafficking activity as specified in:

(i) Article 3.1 of the Convention Against the Illegal Trafficking of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which was opened for signing in Vienna on 20 December 1988;

(ii) Any international agreement obliging the two parties when the activity in question is related to a crime, as specified by that agreement.

(g) "The holding [aseguramiento] of assets" means any measure to prevent the trade [trafico], transfer, or disposal of assets.

Article 3, Central Authorities

(1) The requests for assistance derived from this agreement must be submitted through the parties' central authorities.

(2) The central authorities in the UK will be the Ministry of Interior. The central authority in the Republic of Panama will be (ministry has yet to be appointed).

Article 4, Contents of Requests

(1) The requests will be made in writing. Requests may be made verbally in urgent situations or when it is allowed differently by the requested party, but the request must later be confirmed in writing.

(2) The requests for legal assistance will include a declaration stating:

(a) The name of the appropriate authority which is handling the investigation or procedure mentioned in the request;

(b) The issues linked with the important facts and laws to which the investigation or procedure refers;

(c) The purpose of the request and the type of assistance required;

(d) Details of any procedure or specific request on which the requesting party needs assistance;

(e) Any limit of time within which the request should be fulfilled;

(f) Identity, nationality, and location of the person or persons which are subject to the investigations or procedures;

(3) If the requested party considers that the information included in a request is not enough to warrant the assistance, the party may request additional information.

Article 5, Implementation of the Requests

(1) A request will be implemented when it is allowed by, and in accordance with, the requested party's national laws; and according to the stipulations specified in the request, provided they are not incompatible with the law;

(2) The requesting party will notify the requested party, as soon as possible, of any circumstance which may cause a significant delay in answering the request.

(3) The requested party will notify the requesting party, as soon as possible, of any decision not to implement a request, or part of it, for assistance and the reasons for this decision.

(4) The requesting party will notify the requested party, as soon as possible, of any circumstances that may affect the request or its implementation; or that may render inadequate its implementation.

Article 6, Refusal To Give Assistance

(1) Assistance may be denied if:

(a) The requested party believes that its sovereignty, security, national interests, or other essential interests will be seriously affected if the assistance is given;

(b) The requested assistance may be detrimental to another investigation or procedure in the requested party's territory; or if it may jeopardize any person's safety; or if it represents an excessive burden on the party's resources; or

(c) The requested action is contrary to the principles of the requested party's law; or

(d) The request refers to a crime concerning which the person was eventually acquitted or pardoned; or has served a sentence or carried out any order issued as a result of the sentence which has been served.

(2) Before turning down a request for assistance, the requested party will take into consideration whether the assistance can be given subject to the conditions it considers necessary. If the requesting party accepts the assistance subject to the conditions, it can be implemented.

Article 7, Confidentiality and Limited Use of the Evidence and the Information

(1) The requested party should, to any point agreed upon, maintain the confidentiality about an assistance request; its contents; the fact of providing such assistance to comply with the aforesaid request; and any other document which may confirm the same between the parties. If the request cannot be executed without breaking the confidentiality, the requested party will inform the requesting party so that it can determine to what degree it wants that the request be carried out.

(2) The requesting party should, if requested, maintain the confidentiality about any evidence or information delivered by the requested party, at least to the point that its presentation is necessary for the investigation or the proceeding described in the request.

(3) The requesting party will not use the information obtained as a result of the request for purposes other than those established in the same, without the previous consent of the requested party.

Article 8, Information and Evidence

(1) The parties can request information and evidence in order to carry out an investigation or proceeding.

(2) The assistance that can be given based on this article includes but is not limited to:

(a) Giving information and documents or copies of the same for an investigation or proceeding in the territory of the requesting party;

(b) Taking tests or statements from witnesses or other people and providing documents, files, or any other material to forward them to the requesting party;

(c) Locating, securing, and delivering any pertinent material to the requesting party, as well as giving as much information as requested by the requesting party on the securing place or the context of the same and the following custody of the secured material prior to its delivery.

(3) The requesting party may postpone the delivery of the requested material if it is required for a proceeding pertaining to criminal or civil affairs in its territory. The requested party will provide, when requested, certified copies of the documents.

(4) Whenever required by the requested party, the requesting party should return the material given under this article when it is no longer needed for the purposes for which it was requested.

Article 9, Securing of the Products

(1) According to this article, one party may request the securing of goods in order to ensure that they will be available for the purposes of carrying out a confiscation warrant that has been or may be issued.

(2) A request issued according to this Article must include:

(a) Information establishing the procedures that have been, or will be, started as a result of a confiscation order that has been, or may be, issued;

(b) When applicable, a statement specifying when the procedures will be started;

(c) Either:

(i) A summary of the case's events, incuding a description of the crime, time and place where it was perpetrated, a reference to the applicable legal provisions, the evidence on which the suspicion is based, and a copy of any important securement order; or

(ii) When a seizure order has been issued, or a copy of that order;

(d) Whenever possible, a description of the assets whose securement is sought, or which are believed to be available for securement, and their connection with the person against which proceedings have been, or will be, started;

(e) When adequate, a report on the amount whose securement is sought and the information used to calculate the amount;

(f) When applicable, a report on the approximate date on which the case will be brought to court, and the date on which a final ruling will be issued.

(3) The requesting party will notify the requested party of any change in the estimate time referred to in paragraph (2)(f). It must also provide information on the current state of the proceedings. Each party will notify the other, as soon as possible, about any appeal or variation concerning the securement action that has been requested or carried out.

(4) The requesting party may impose a condition limiting the duration of the securement order. The requested party will notify the requesting party, as soon as possible, of the said condition and its reasons.

Canal Employees Issue Communique on Adminstration

PA2502021591 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 24 Feb 91 p 32B

[Text] The Association of Panama Canal Employees (Asodec) has said that the "irresponsibility of the past dictatorship" and "apathy that has characterized the current government" should not serve as a "thermometer" to gauge the ability of Panamanians to face future challenges related to the canal.

In a communique signed by its president Gabriel Ayu Prado, Asodec states that the transfer of the waterway's administration and operation to Panama has taken place as scheduled since the 1977 treaties began to be implemented, and to date, the participation of Panamanians in such roles has been increased to 86 percent.

Asodec states that in the nine years that remain before the expiration of the canal treaties, the only missing thing is for Panama to adequately prepare to assume total control of the inter-oceanic waterway by creating an agency to replace the current Canal Commission and shelter it from domestic partisan policies.

It also believes that "even the future canal board of directors, which should include representatives of canal users and employees, must be sheltered from harmful partisan policies."

Asodec points out that in the nine years remaining before the transfer is completed, the current and next governments must send clear and firm signals to the international maritime community that that waterway will be managed professionally and will be free of the vices that caused so much damage to the already reverted facilities, such as the ports and the railroad.

This organization believes that the issue of the development of reverted areas and the possible permanence of U.S. military bases "deserve serious and special treatment, because they have direct incidence on our economy."

The communique adds that "the failure of and irresponsibility of the past dictatorship, which used the reverted areas for the sole and exclusive benefit of the Panama Defense Forces and its close civilian followers, must not be used as a thermometer to gauge the ability of Panamanians to face future challenges. The apathy that has characterized the current democratic governmen: should not be used for that purpose either," the communique continues.

Canal employees acknowledge the law, which adopted urgent measures regarding reverted facilities and facilities that will return to Panama, as a "first step" by the government.

Asodec also urges the government to accelerate actions that are needed to assume all responsibilities acquired in the 1977 treaties to show the world that, we, Panamanians are responsible and determined to assume the great challenges that the future has in store for us.

Argentina

Di Tella Says Policy 'Economically Oriented'

PY2302182691 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2210 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Feb (NA)—Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella admitted today that the government hopes Argentine enterprises will be able to participate in the multimillion-dollar projects that will be necessary to reconstruct Iraq and Kuwait at the end of the war in the Persian Gulf.

During a news conference with foreign correspondents, the foreign minister criticized the EEC agricultural policy, labelled as significant progress made on creating a Southern Cone common market, and ratified that Argentine views construction of a gas pipeline to Chile as a "high priority."

When asked whether the Argentine Government accepts the latest peace proposal made by the USSR Government, Di Tella only said: "We do not have precise information" on the proposal, but noted that Argentina "wishes peace, a durable peace for the region."

According to AFP and UPI, the foreign minister said: "The foreign policy is economically oriented" and added that Argentina (?received) a "very important" response for its interests after sending two ships to the Middle East.

The former Argentine ambassador to the United States said there are indications that enterprises of countries belonging to the allied forces struggling against Saddam Husayn will be given preference in the task of rebuilding Kuwait and Iraq.

Regarding the deployment of a fourth ship to the Persian Gulf to replace the destroyer Almirante Brown, Di Tella admitted that there are financial problems in preparing the destroyer La Argentina, but he hoped that a decision in this regard will be made "in a few weeks."

When asked about commercial subjects, Di Tella said the EEC agricultural policy was an "aberration" because, in his opinion, it not only punishes other countries but also "punishes" its consumers.

He also said "a new international order is emerging," in which the U.S. economy seems "not to grow at the same pace as the Japanese and European economies," but added that Washington's political role internationally "is attaining a preeminence that will last for at least the next 20 years."

Regarding a visit to the Malvinas Islands by a group of relatives of soldiers buried on that island that has been announced for the second half of March, Di Tella noted that arrangements continue to be made.

He also insisted in labelling as "transcendental" the agreements reached in this city on 21 February by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay for creation of the Southern Cone common market. The presidents of the four countries are scheduled to meet in Asuncion between 10 and 12 March to sign the Asuncion treaty.

Di Tella said construction of a gas pipeline between Argentina and Chile is a "high priority" for Argentina and explained that the project will be financed exclusively with private risk capital and that the Argentine Government wants the call for bids to be a "clear" process.

Defense Minister Leaving for Saudi Arabia 26 Feb

PY2302030091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2246 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Feb (TELAM)—On 26 February Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez will travel to the Persian Gulf area to install Navy Captain Adolfo Hasenbalg as the new chief of the Argentine task force. The minister himself made this announcement to the media today as he accompanied President Menem to Army Aviation Unit 601 in Campo de Mayo.

Gonzalez said he will visit Saudi Arabia and meet with Kuwaiti government officials in exile to discuss several subjects on which he did not care to elaborate.

He also reported that a Navy transportation ship will sail for the Persian Gulf in the first week of March, carrying food and medicines for war victims. The Navy transportation ship will depart Puerto Belgrano between 5 and 8 March to carry out auxiliary tasks and to deliver food and medicine.

Gonzalez stressed that Argentina will continue to comply with the UN resolutions adopted on the Persian Gulf situation.

The transportation ship that will be sent to the Persian Gulf will be the Bahia San Blas, the Canal del Beagle, or the Cabo de Hornos, all of which were built in the State Shipyards and Naval Factories (AFNE) during the eighties. These ships can carry 5800 tons. They are 119 meters long and 11 meters wide.

Minister on Attempted Alfonsin Assassination

PY2502173691 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa has described the attack against Raul Alfonsin, the former president and Radical Civic Union president, as serious and despicable. [passage omitted]

After talking with President Menem, who is using the interior minister's office, Julio Mera Figueroa said that the attack perpetrated last Saturday [24 February] against Raul Alfonsin represents a serious political incident as it involved someone of the stature of Alfonsin, a former president who is known worldwide.

Mera Figueroa pointed out that the appropriate investigations are being conducted. He said:

[Begin Mera Figueroa recording] Our government ... [changes thought] There is an express directive from the president. Aside from the action of the Buenos Aires Province in its federal court, we will define this issue in order to establish who is entitled to investigate this incident.

I have given express instructions to the federal police to directly and jointly work with the appropriate judge or cooperate with the police of Buenos Aires Province—whichever is appropriate.

Concerning the [words indistinct] the attack, which does not just involve the material facts, I can tell you that we and the state security organizations will try to establish the circumstances under which this attack took place. [end recording]

This was a statement by Mera Figueroa. He added that the attack did not involve a failure in security but said that it was an unpredictable event. The interior minister said that the attack was carried out by a man who acted publicly and who was detained. He added that fortunately the attack was unsuccessful. He admitted that absolute security does not exist in any country of the world. [passage omitted]

The two detainees in this attempted homicide—which you may recall took place last Saturday [24 February] night in San Nicolas, Buenos Aires Province, during a party rally—will testify before Dr. Antonio Alberto Moreno, the criminal judge of that city in Buenos Aires Province.

Court sources have confirmed that [retired border policeman Ismael] Abdala has been accused of public intimidation and attempted homicide while the other detainee, who has been identified as Luis Moises Gomez, has been accused of attempted homicide.

Former President Raul Alfonsin has emphasized that the attack on him last Saturday [24 February] has nothing to do with politics, politicians, or political parties.

Bolivia

Germany Agrees To Reschedule $37.8 Million Debt

PY2302014091 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 16 Feb 91 p 1

[Summary] The Bolivian and German Governments have signed an agreement to reschedule $37.8 million of Bolivia's bilateral debt to Germany under terms established by the Paris Club. The agreement was signed by Bolivian Planning Minister Enrique Garcia, German Finance Minister Gudrun Schlitzberger [name and title as published], and German Ambassador to Bolivia Herman Saumweber.

Government, Labor Federation Leaders Resume Talks

PY2602024291 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Government officials and Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] leaders today resumed talks in an effort to reach an agreement on several matters proposed by the workers. The meeting between union leaders and government officials was held at the Planning and Coordination Ministry; they discussed important matters such as the salary policy and other matters involving the peasant sectors.

The national authorities hope that the results of the meeting will be positive and that the resolutions will prevent confrontations between sectors negotiating with the COB. The ministers of state who are participating in the talks have expressed their confidence in what will happen within the next few hours, while union leaders remain skeptical.

* Exports Expected To Suffer From Gulf War

91SM0190E Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 18 Jan 91 p B3

[Text] La Paz, 17 Jan (ANF)—The country's exports will be hard hit by the Persian Gulf war because both the United States and Europe will reduce their purchases drastically owing to the recession that the conflict will bring on.

This view was expressed by the president of the Chamber of Exporters, Javier Castellanos, who indicated that the two zones are the main markets for Bolivia's nontraditional exports.

We should recall that 20 percent of the country's nontraditional exports go to the U.S. market, while 16 percent are shipped to the markets of the European Economic Community.

Bolivia's export capacity will shrink this year, especially when we bear in mind the increase in international freight charges. The situation could worsen further if the conflict in the gulf is a prolonged one, said the president of the National Chamber of Exporters.

"We are going to be faced with a vicious circle, because recession brings lower consumption, which leads to lower investment. The inevitable consequence is that unemployment rises, with the result of widening poverty," Castellanos explained.

In fact, the president of the National Chamber of Exporters noted, domestic exports are already being hurt by the falling prices for certain items, among which are coffee and soybeans.

Without any doubt whatsoever, Castellanos said, the United States will see its budget deficit rise as a result of a too costly war. To this must be added the panic among American consumers, who as a precaution will double their savings and cut down on consumption, thus

causing higher unemployment. Such a recession will obviously hurt Bolivia as a country that provides a minimal portion of basic consumer items," Castellanos underscored.

In Castellanos' view, the situation could grow more troubled as time passes, perhaps forcing the government to take steps to protect this sector of the economy, which has posted major growth in recent years.

From this perspective, Castellanos said, the government would be faced with the challenge of tackling the crisis of a new international economic order in the same way that the government of Victor Paz Estenssoro had to tackle the crisis prompted by the drop in mineral prices.

* Nontraditional Export Projections Forecast

91SM0190G La Paz HOY in Spanish 16 Jan 91 p 5

[Text] Exports of new, nontraditional products such as clothing, jewelry, fruit, flowers, and others will generate income of around $1 billion for Bolivia over the next five years, the executive director of the National Institute for Export Promotion (INPEX), Oscar Farfan Mealla, reported yesterday.

He explained that in the area of nontraditional exports the country has good prospects for boosting its foreign exchange from a new line of derivatives of manufacturing and agriculture.

In this connection, he said, the companies Alpach, Modas Express, and Sitex have begun exporting garments to U.S. markets, thus opening them up to new, nontraditional items.

Farfan added that clothing would be joined by exports of jewelry from two companies, Orbol and Eurobol, which are located in the city of El Alto and which began putting out chains, earrings, and other gold jewelry this month.

He went on to say that one of these companies transferred its offices from the city of Tijuana, Mexico to Bolivia owing to the climate of stability and confidence that such operations require.

He added that there is another field to which INPEX attaches great importance, nontraditional agriculture, which includes fruit, flowers, vegetables, almonds, and other items that are very popular in Europe and are also duty-free.

In the view of the INPEX executive director, Bolivia has to take advantage of the current international trend towards buying nontraditional products by promoting production in fields other than fossil fuels and mining.

Such a policy poses a challenge to businessmen, however, who have to apply new technologies, update their know-how, and invest, Oscar Farfan Mealla noted.

* Agricultural Production Continues To Drop

91SM0190B Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 20 Jan 91 p 33

[Text] La Paz (LOS TIEMPOS)—Domestic farm and livestock production posted another significant drop last year. This shows clearly that this sector of the economy is involved less and less in the country's development and that urgent measures are required to resolve this problem, which has been getting worse for almost the past two decades, as soon as possible.

Luis Antezana Ergueta, a specialist in farming and livestock issues, said that it bears emphasizing that farm production has been on a gradual decline since the early 1980's in spite of a slight upturn around 1985. The statistics for farming's share in the gross domestic product (GDP) are, he said, as follows: 1981, 18.6 percent; 1982, 20.3; 1983, 18.1; 1984, 22.3; and 1985, 25.5.

He said that on the basis of these data we can state that the farm economy began to recover in 1985; nonetheless, domestic food production began a steady, sharp decline in 1986 that has lasted for six straight years. Accordingly, farm production shows the following downtrend: 1986, 24.1 percent; 1987, 23.6; 1988, 22.6; 1989, 21.7, and 1990, 20.4

Antezana asserted that the numbers for the past decade clearly confirm that farm production has declined markedly, while in contrast the country's population grows every year at the rate of three percent. This means that our agriculture is not meeting the food needs of our people and that, concurrently, food imports are more urgent. At the same time, this shortfall must be covered with the ever scarcer foreign exchange entering the country, as revealed by the figures for the GDP, which was up just 2.6 percent in 1990 by optimistic accounts.

Moreover, he said that since the economic factors in agriculture remain unchanged, farm production will continue to decline this year and in ensuing years unless appropriate measures are taken, "scuttling any program for development and the country's economic and political stability," he asserted.

Brazil

Collor Explains Stand on Gulf to Allied Leaders

PY2602011591 Rio de Janeiro Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] President Fernando Collor today sent letters to several chiefs of state and government explaining the Brazilian stand on the Gulf war. The letters were sent to the presidents of France, the United States, and Egypt; the British prime minister; the king of Saudi Arabia; and the emir of Kuwait.

On behalf of the Brazilian people and government, the president of the Republic expressed to the different governments the hope that the battle would be short,

there would be a minimal number of casualties, and the peacetime borders in the Gulf region would be immediately restored.

Poll Shows 49 Percent Support Economic Plan

PY2302143891 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] According to an opinion poll conducted by the IBOPE [Brazilian Public Opinion and Statistics Institute], 49 percent of the Brazilian population supports the Collor-2 economic plan.

President Fernando Collor was quite satisfied with the result of this poll, said Planalto Palace spokesman Claudio Humberto, who added that this result bolsters the government's optimism and the president's conviction that he is moving down the right path. Claudio Humberto affirmed that the result was all the more pleasing for the president because it was the first nationwide poll on his latest economic plan.

The 49-percent popular support for the economic adjustment measures came as a surprise and gave new heart to the government's supporters in Congress. The leader of the government supporters, Deputy Humberto Souto, said this result is the best for the executive branch and will facilitate congressional approval of the Collor-2 plan next week.

Chile

Santiago Voices Support for Soviet Gulf Proposal

PY2202175391 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] This morning the Chilean Foreign Ministry issued a declaration voicing its support for the peace-seeking efforts by the USSR for the conflict in the Persian Gulf.

The declaration was read by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, who said that the Chilean Government fervently desires peace, a cease-fire, and unwavering respect for international law.

[Begin Silva recording] It is encouraging to hear that, for the first time, Iraq has agreed to observe UN Security Council Resolution No. 660 which demands the immediate, unconditional, and complete withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

There is now a hope for peace and we can only wish success to a diplomatic initiative which seems to have been successfully launched. [end recording]

Silva Cimma then said that Chile will continue to promote peace in the Middle East by participating at the United Nations and with the Rio Group efforts to end the war. Regarding an alleged request that the Bolivian Government is going to ask the Spanish monarch to mediate in the search for a Bolivian outlet to the sea, the foreign minister said he had no comments.

Colombia

Report on Gaviria Trip; Four Accords Signed

PA2602014491 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0007 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Report by Raul Gutierrez, from Washington]

[Text] Today Colombia and the United States signed four bilateral cooperation agreements as part of President Cesar Gaviria's visit in the United States. Tomorrow, Gaviria will meet President George Bush in Washington.

Speaking at a school in Harlem, New York, Gaviria reaffirmed that the extraditables who have accepted the terms of the government's decree for obtaining a reduction in their sentences and later commit the same crimes will be extradited to the United States.

President Gaviria arrived in Washington at a time when the Persian Gulf war has made the U.S. citizens temporarily forget the war against drug trafficking. This, and nothing else, will be the priority topic of discussion during the meeting between the two presidents. After all, Bush and Gaviria have been waging a war against drug trafficking from different borders. Bush supports the repression against the mafia, while Gaviria prefers to change legal procedures in Colombia.

The Colombian president arrived in Washington, D.C., on a very cold afternoon. He was received by Secretary of State James Baker in a four-minute ceremony. Immediately, Gaviria went on to his first official ceremony: the signing of four agreements, including one on evidence through which the United States will give priority to the information required by the Colombian judges for conducting legal procedures against Colombian nationals involved in trafficking, processing, and distribution of cocaine in the United States.

Jaramillo on Drug Trafficking, Policy Issues

PA2502223091 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Feb 91 p 3A

[Interview with Foreign Minister Luis Fernando Jaramillo by Hubert Ariza at the Foreign Ministry in Bogota; date not given]

[Text] [Ariza] Some foreign and domestic newspapers have been criticizing President Gaviria for his position on drug trafficking. Has Colombia abandoned that struggle?

[Jaramillo] During this administration the authorities have destroyed as many or more laboratories than in the past, and more cocaine has been seized and destroyed than during any other period. The president and the Armed Forces maintain their firm position. What is happening is that legal procedures that are being worked out in other parts of the world, including the United States, are being implemented here. One such legal

procedure is the negotiation of sentences. We are experimenting with these legal systems, and there is evidence that they have been successful because a significant number of drug traffickers are now in the hands of justice. It cannot be said that the struggle has failed or that it has been abandoned. The government has decided to continue struggling against drug trafficking. What is happening is that much of the terrorist activity has disappeared, and that is what this is all about.

[Ariza] What effect has Colombia's new anti-drug policy had on the international community after the issuing of Decrees 2047, 3030, and 303?

[Jaramillo] The foreign ministers, ambassadors, and chiefs of state with whom I have met abroad highly value the efforts Colombia is making to fight drug trafficking. They realize that new policies and new mechanisms are necessary. This is what President Gaviria has done, using his imagination to be more effective in the struggle. I hope that Colombia's judicial system will be up to par with the circumstances and will produce adequate proceedings for the drug traffickers under arrest, as well as adequate sentences, if they are found guilty.

[Ariza] Is Colombia still looking for international aid, both military and economic, for the struggle against drug trafficking?

[Jaramillo] Colombia's first goal right now is securing commercial opportunities, rather than aid or donations. We have asked most of the countries of the world to open up their markets to our products. We have received a positive answer from the EEC and we hope to get a positive answer from the United States, through approval by the U.S. Congress of President Bush's Andean Initiative.

[Ariza] How have Colombian industrialists taken advantage of the custom facilities that the EEC has granted us for a five-year period?

[Jaramillo] The effects of the EEC's elimination of duties are beginning to be noticed now. There are effects on the export of coffee, flowers, tropical fruits, hide, and artisan work. The impact of the elimination of customs on the coffee sector, which has created the Fund for the Protection of the Hydrographic Basin, will benefit the Andean region because a large amount of money will be invested there.

[Ariza] What is our policy toward the United States? Have relations been de-narcotized, as you have proposed on several occasions?

[Jaramillo] We are in the process of de-narcotizing our relations with them —that is, we are in the process of discussing and negotiating issues other than drug trafficking, which were saturating our agenda with that country. Right now, the development, finance, and agriculture ministers have been in continuous contact with their U.S. counterparts analyzing various financial and commercial strategies.

[Ariza] What effect will the Persian Gulf war have on Colombia? Are we prepared to confront those problems?

[Jaramillo] So far it does not seem that the war will seriously affect Colombia's economy. Oil prices have remained stable. This does not mean, however, that there will not be serious problems in the future. If the war is protracted or if it spreads, its consequences will differ from today's effects.

[Ariza] Does it make sense for Colombia to remain in the Nonaligned Movement?

[Jaramillo] The Nonaligned Movement has lost it role in the world. It is evident that it has lost its raison d'etre. As a result of detente, many countries have formed commissions in an attempt to find a new raison d'etre. Colombia is an underdeveloped country. It is in the process of finding the reason for its existence in the world, and if its association with other underdeveloped countries proves beneficial, its permanence within the organization will be justified.

[Ariza] Is there still a crisis within the OAS?

[Jaramillo] Yes. The General Assembly acknowledged this in Asuncion, where a group was formed to reflect on the situation. This group has met in Washington in an attempt to make substantial reforms within the organization. One of the crisis indicators is that during the Central American conflict, as well as during Haiti's electoral process, the United Nations had to be approached. The OAS has not been an ideal forum for solving conflicts on the continent. It has lost its place in the Latin American region.

[Ariza] What happened with Gaviria's proposal for a Latin American forum?

[Jaramillo] The Group of Rio has been strengthened by the entry of almost all of the Latin American countries, and it has become a large political forum for concerted efforts and for the discussion of topics that must be submitted to the highest presidential levels. This mechanism is filling the void created by President Gaviria's proposal.

[Ariza] Following the U.S. invasion of Panama, Colombian-Panamanian relations reached an all-time low. What is the state of these relations now?

[Jaramillo] That process has changed radically. I had the opportunity to meet in Panama with Foreign Minister Julio Linares and President Guillermo Endara, whom I invited to the presidential summit in San Andres. They participated and met with President Gaviria, with whom they discussed bilateral issues in-depth. The difficulties that existed at one time with that country have been overcome. Today we enjoy excellent relations with that country's government.

[Ariza] It is possible for Panama to rejoin the Group of Rio?

[Jaramillo] We will see how the subject can be dealt with. There are still some difficulties. There is a group of political exiles in certain Latin American embassies on the isthmus. This situation is in the discussion-and-solution phase. Once the asylum problem is resolved, it might be possible for Panama, through the Central American Group or even directly, to cooperate with the Group of Rio. The situation must be evaluated at a later date by the Group of Rio.

[Ariza] Are the Colombian-Venezuelan negotiations over the Gulf of Venezuela conflict deadlocked?

[Jaramillo] No. It is not possible to talk exclusively about negotiations concerning the gulf waters. This topic must be discussed within a broader context, which is the agenda for the general Colombian-Venezuelan negotiations process. The agenda also includes very important topics such as hydrographic bodies, migrations, border areas, and others. The negotiation process is being examined, and only the future can say what the result will be. There is no deadline, and there is a great willingness on the part of the two presidents to clear the agenda of all the topics that are hindering relations between Colombia and Venezuela.

[Ariza] What fruit has the Foreign Ministry's new economic policy yielded?

[Jaramillo] We are discussing with Proexpo [Export Promotion] the possibility of adhering all of Colombia's commercial institutions abroad to its embassies. We have had considerable success with coal and banana negotiations in the EC markets, through the assistance of private sector agents who have visited several nations to make their effort more effective.

[Ariza] What has been the criteria for naming various "electoral barons" and parlamentarians as ambassadors?

[Jaramillo] To think that a member of what has been described as the political class is not apt to be a diplomat is to establish an unjustified disqualification. I would say that few people are as qualified as many of our parlamentarians are to carry out important diplomatic tasks. Our current list of ambassadors is among the most brilliant that Colombia has had in many years.

[Ariza] Certain people feel that those designations are part of your electoral strategy for the forthcoming presidential elections....

[Jaramillo] That is unjustified. The country's foreign relations are handled in accordance with and under the president's direction. He would not, under any circumstances, allow one of his ministers to carry out a political campaign from his office. That would be intolerable, and the president would have already adopted the necessary steps to correct the situation.

Paraguay

President's Proposed Electoral Deadline Rejected

PY2302153091 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 23 Feb 91 p 14

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] During a working meeting at Government Palace yesterday, President Andres Rodriguez was unable to obtain the support he sought for a special congressional session to modify the deadline for the registration of municipal election candidates. Rodriguez met for approximately two hours with Luis Maria Argana, head of the governing Colorado Party [ANR], and opponents Juan Manucl Benitez Florentin of the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party], Euclides Acevedo of the PRF [Febrerista Revolutionary Party], and Jose Burro of the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] without attaining the consensus he sought to solve the Colorado Party problem.

The politicians who attended the meeting—during which they informed the chief of state of their respective parties' positions on the subject—said it had developed in a "cordial and pleasant" manner.

ANR leader Luis Maria Argana ratified the request, noting that an extension of the deadline would not jeopardize the transition process since it would only be used once to allow the participation of "the majority political party in the 26 May municipal elections."

To justify the ANR position, Argana said: "This process will require constant adjustments within the framework of the law." He added: "The upcoming municipal elections will be a rehearsal, which will need to be adjusted, for the great election." [passage omitted]

Rodriguez Advocates Full Reform of Constitution

PY2302172491 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 23 Feb 91 p 15

[Text] President Rodriguez yesterday voiced his support for total reform of the Constitution during the next National Constituent Assembly. He made this statement during a breakfast meeting at Government Palace with Luis Maria Argana, Colorado Party president; Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] president; Euclides Acevedo, Febrista Revolutionary Party president; and Jose Burro, Christian Democratic Party president.

In principle, this meeting was to discuss the Colorado Party request that the executive branch call a special congressional session to postpone the deadline for the registration of candidates for municipal elections. Following the talks with the political leaders, Rodriguez took the opportunity to express his position on the Constitution. He later told journalists: "I wanted them to know my position on this matter. I think the Constitution must be reformed rather than amended."

He added: "I think the Constitution must be reformed because the current one is like a building set up by the former regime, and we do not want to make just small repairs to this building. We want to construct a building according to the democratic process going on in the country."

He explained that this was "just a very personal opinion," and that "it is up to the National Constituent Assembly to make the final decision." "I have just expressed my opinion on this matter," he stressed.

He said that during the meeting he asked the political leaders to analyze their opinions in order to speed up actions "to expedite the task for the next National Constituent Assembly."

He said that he also asked the politicians to choose two or three reliable judges to draft the general guidelines in order to "gain time."

Rodriguez termed as "justified" the PLRA request to amend Article 362 of the Electoral Code as a trade-off for the postponement requested by the Colorado Party. Article 362 refers to allotments for members of the Central Electoral Board and local electoral boards.

Asked whether the call for the special congressional session will include the PLRA request, Rodriguez said this is a matter to be resolved by Congress. He added: "I do not think this is an opportunity to change this article because it is a permanent one. As far as the other request (that of the Colorado Party), it is just a request to change the date in a very provisional way," he said.

Diplomatic Relations With Nicaragua Resumed

PY2502160891 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Summary] Ten years after breaking relations, Paraguay and Nicaragua resumed diplomatic ties as the new Nicaraguan Ambassador to Paraguay Ariel Ramon Granera Sacasa today presented his credentials to President Andres Rodriguez at Government House.

Uruguay

Debt Negotiations With Private Banks Concluded

PY2102123291 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Text] The Uruguayan Government has completed the negotiations with international banks to reduce our country's foreign debt on the basis of an accord signed 31 January.

This announcement was made in New York by Under Secretary of Economy Nicolas Herrera and Citybank representatives.

The negotiations included the $1.69 billion of medium- and long-term debt that Uruguay owes to private banks. The negotiations did not include a small portion of the debt owed to the World Bank.

Uruguay, whose total foreign debt amounts to some $7.2 billion, has repurchased $632 million of its debt at 56 percent of its nominal dollar value. Uruguay also issued a first series of 30-year bonds for $331 million. The bonds will be exchanged for foreign debt obligations of the same nominal value, with an interest of 6.75 percent.

The Uruguayan Government also received $89.5 million in fresh funds, for which reason it issued 15-year bonds with a 7-year grace period and an interest rate equal to the libor [London interbank offered rate] plus one percentage point.

Resignation Date for Under Secretary Uncertain

PY2502131691 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Government sources have affirmed, according to the newspaper EL PAIS today, that any change in the government at this time will not go beyond the replacement of Nicolas Herrera, the Economy and Finance Ministry under secretary.

Although Under Secretary Herrera has not yet set a date on which he will be replaced, he will definitely leave the post. Contrary to some rumors, this is the only change that will be made in the government team.

The sources noted that Herrera's departure might take some time—days or perhaps weeks—because he is still involved in some negotiations regarding the foreign debt abroad. There will be no major change in the economic policy being implemented by the government, except minor modifications to be introduced through political agreements.

Exports in 1990 Increase to Record $1.702 Billion

PY2302182891 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Summary] Uruguayan exports in 1990 reached a record figure of $1.702 billion; this represents an increase of 6.7 percent compared to exports during 1989.